MUSCOGIANA



LOVERS' LEAP, NORTH HIGHLANDS PARK.

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MUSCOGIANA
Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society

Mimi P. Childs and Callie B. McGinnis, Co-Editors

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MUSCOGEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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Webpage:
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Katharine A. Sherrer

Margie C. Smith



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FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *Muscogiana* contains a variety of valuable historic and genealogical material. Callie McGinnis and I are serving as Co-Editors, and we hope that you will find the contents interesting and useful to your research.

Our lead article is by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., and is the first of several articles about the source of placenames in Columbus. In this article, he writes about the origins of Linwood, Rose Hill, Rosemont, and Belmont which include several fascinating family stories. One is about James C. Cook and his descendants. They were prominent in the 19th and early 20th century in Columbus owning vast acreage of land including the well-known destination on the Chattahoochee River, Lovers' Leap, pictured on the cover. They lived in two of the houses featured in this article, Rosemont and Belmont. Their elegant homes and cultivated grounds were the site of parties and cultural events over the years. Neither house stands today. After reading Ken's article, you might want to use the address and find the fenced-in lot on the edge of a housing project that once was Belmont. The present view makes one have renewed appreciation for the preservation efforts that have taken place in our city and have helped save other houses with histories like Belmont.

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., is well-known to our society members. He is a native of Columbus and traces his Muscogee County roots to 1836. He is the author of *Columbus, Georgia, in Vintage Postcards* and *Images of America: Fort Benning*. Ken has written the genealogy column in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* since 1977. He retired in 2006 after 33 years in state government as historian for the National Register of Historic Places in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. He is a popular and highly-regarded speaker on genealogy and historical topics around the state.

Exploring the vast resources in the Columbus State Archives, Mike Bunn, Executive Director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, located the Civil War diary of James William Howard. Using the diary as his primary source, Mike presents a picture of Columbus during the last days of the war and tells of the hardships endured by young James William Howard. This diary is a valuable new addition to source material on this time period. The story has a surprising conclusion that includes a connection to Rose Hill. Skillfully written, this article is a pleasure to read.

The last article is part of a series by John Mallory Land on cemeteries in our area. Anyone who has sought a family grave in an overgrown cemetery can appreciate the work involved in surveying cemeteries. The importance of this documentation cannot be overstated. Fortunately, the Chattahoochee Valley Cemeteries Society, its president John Mallory Land, Linda Farmer Ames and others are continuing this work. In this article, John includes many names, birth and death dates and specific burial locations, all of which should be helpful to researchers.

You are invited to submit articles in Word for publication to MChilds991@aol.com. The inside front cover has additional details regarding submissions.

Mimi Pease Childs, Co-Editor

The cover photograph of Lovers' Leap was originally printed in 1892 in *Lelulah; or The Heroine of Lovers' Leap* by Mrs. S. M. Chandler. The photograph is used courtesy of Jane N. Grider.

Placenames in Columbus and Muscogee County: Part One

By

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

Introduction

I have long been interested in placenames and how they came about and how long they may have been in use in a community. This article is the first time I have set my thoughts to paper, and hopefully it will begin a series on the subject for our local area.

The origin of a placename is often shrouded in time, unless it can be attributed to a specific person or event. We know for example, the J. R. Allen Parkway was named in the 1970s for the then-Mayor who was killed in a plane crash. But how many people new to Columbus would know that? How would they learn the details?

Trends in the use of certain types of names for cities, for example, can be studied in books, most interestingly those of George R. Stewart such as his *Names on the Land (*1945). The United States saw a rash of places named for classical references in the early 19th century, such as Athens and Rome, Georgia, or those we tend to pronounce differently, such as Cairo, Vienna, and Seville.

Columbus and Muscogee were founded in the 1820s by many people who moved to this area having been well-established in other parts of Georgia. No doubt they brought their own ideas about their favorite places and probably used some of the same names with which they were familiar.

To create interest in this series, I thought I would start with documenting the origins and earliest proven use of some major area placenames still being used today.

After reading these brief, but documented references, anyone with more information, a comment, or a suggestion for future study, is invited to contact me.

Research Methodology:

For this article, I have tried to discover and prove the earliest use of a placename, rather than taking just local hearsay, or un-footnoted accounts. I have used the GenealogyBank website (a subscription site) where issues of the *Columbus Enquirer* (under various names) from 1855 to 1922 are digitized, as well as issues of the same paper from 1828 to 1890, digitized by the University of Georgia on their Digital Library of Georgia as the *Columbus Enquirer* Archive, a free site. The UGA site goes back further with the Columbus papers, but also does not cover the dates after 1890, so one has to use both websites to do comprehensive research. The series of Columbus newspaper abstracts by Elizabeth Evans Kilbourne is also important. That series, now in its 10th volume, bears the title, *Columbus, Georgia,*

Newspaper Abstracts, Columbus Enquirer. While these are indexed and valuable for looking up people and genealogy data, they often have left many items out, by necessity, and do not index placenames, for the most part, other than the larger ones, like counties, and cities.

If a placename is also a common word, such as "wildwood," it is much harder to isolate its earliest use in the newspaper.

I have also used my own files of information which I have collected from here and there, as well as the various published histories of our area. The archives at Columbus State University and the collection at the Columbus Public Library are valuable sources to use to do further research. Any references used will be footnoted to prove once and for all, to the best we can, the origins and earliest use of these names. We also must realize that our earlier historians did not have the wonderful new sources via the Internet that we have now, so they may have included information they could not prove, and which we can today "adjust" to a more accurate date and origin.

Themes:

The best way to present a book on placenames would be to arrange them in alphabetical order with cross references where necessary. For an article or series, it seems best to go by themes. Those that have been suggested are roads, rivers/creeks, houses/plantations/suburbs/neighborhoods, and schools.

We begin with the most recent question:

Why was Linwood Cemetery not named Rose Hill Cemetery, which is the name of one of the older cemeteries in Macon, Georgia? The answer, as documented below, is that Rose Hill was already a well-established local placename, decades before the cemetery even had a name at all.

The Theme: Suburbs or Villages in early Columbus and environs

Linwood

Today this is best known as the name of the City of Columbus's oldest cemetery for white burials, established when the city was laid out in 1828. But we also know that the cemetery was not known officially as "Linwood Cemetery" until the city council met in late 1894 and decided that henceforth, the two city cemeteries for whites would be known as Linwood and Riverdale. [1]

[1] "Getting Ready for Next Year," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun,* December 11, 1894, 1; *Annual Reports, Officers of the City of Columbus, Ga., for the Year Ending December 1, 1894...* (Columbus: Thos. Gilbert, 1895), 7 (same report as appeared in the newspaper).

So where did the term "Linwood" come from?

In 1856 the *Enquirer* published an article referencing the then three suburbs, Wynnton, Rose Hill, and Beallwood, and the newest one, "Linwood," stating that it began at the residence of Mrs. Hodges and went on to that of Mrs. Shepherd. This latter house was that of Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Shepherd, and after her death, her son Col. William S. Shepherd, who at his death in 1924 left it to be used as the orphan's home and to be renamed to honor his mother. While the organization is still in business under that name at another location, the Shepherd property later became the Bradley Center at 2000 16th Avenue. In the 1850 Census of Muscogee County, Mrs. Ann E. Shepherd is at household no. 187, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hodges at no. 212, both in the 8th District. That gives us the parameters of the area from the census. One notes that some of the landowners in "Rose Hill," below, were listed within that range of household numbers, showing that the villages overlapped presumably placing Linwood as being between "Rose Hill" and what today is the St. Elmo residential area. The article stated that "Linwood" included "some twenty families living in the village."[2] Mrs. Hodges was the widow of Methodist Rev. Samuel K. Hodges, who died in 1840.



Hillhouse, home of Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Shepherd, located in Linwood
Postcard used courtesy of Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

[2] "Linwood," *Columbus Enquirer,* April 19, 1856, 2, accessed October 15, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.

Linwood "was named in honor of Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz, whose last and great novel is called Linwood." They were quoting another Columbus paper, the *Times and Sentinel,* for that information. Mrs. Hentz's last novel was actually titled *Ernest Linwood* and was published in Boston in 1856, thus making 1856 a pretty firm date as to when Linwood would have first been used in Columbus, with the suburb/village being given the name within a few months of the appearance of her book. The newspaper had earlier announced its publication in the March 15 issue.[3] Advertisements for the book appear in subsequent issues. Mrs. Hentz, who had lived in Columbus only a short time, had actually died earlier in 1856 at her son's home in Florida and her husband later that same year.[4]

Mrs. Hentz and her husband, N. M. Hentz, born in France, and a professor of languages, were living with their children in 1850 in the City of Columbus at household no. 641. Her maiden name was Whiting. The family had previously lived in North Carolina and Ohio. More on her can be found in various earlier histories of Columbus. [5]

The name Linwood today also exists for the main road, Linwood Boulevard, which runs from the south side of the cemetery to 13th Avenue, as well as Linwood Elementary School (1125 15th St., now the Stewart Community Home), and Linwood Baptist Church (1430 10th Avenue, now the New Linwood Baptist Church is there).

Beallwood

The 1856 article also substantiates the story found in some of Columbus's published histories as to the source for the name Beallwood as a "suburb" or area of town, and today preserved in the term "Beallwood Connector," the Beallwood Station U. S. Post Office (31904), and most notably Beallwood Baptist Church at 4650 Veterans Parkway, but taking up an entire block east to Hamilton Road. Locally, the word is pronounced as if it were "Bellwood."

A quote from the article best describes this suburb:

> There is also another village in embryo, about a mile beyond the one above named [Linwood], on the Hamilton road, commencing at the residence of R. M. Gunby, and C. S. Harrison, Esq., and extending over an area of a mile in circumference, within which, and in sight of each other, some ten or eleven families reside. They have a day school of 25 or 30 scholars [The Beallwood Institute][6] and a Sabbath school has recently been started under very favorable auspices. The name of this pleasant little settlement is

[3] "Mrs. Hentz's Last Novel," *Columbus Enquirer,* March 15, 1856, 2.

[4] "Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz," *Columbus Enquirer,* February 21, 1856; "Death of Professor N. M. Hentz," *Columbus Enquirer*, November 27, 1856, accessed October 15, 2011, http:// www.genealogybank.com.

[5] Nancy Telfair, *A History of Columbus, Georgia, 1828-1928* (Columbus: The Historical Publishing Co., 1929), 90. Telfair appears to be quoting from John H. Martin's earlier work.

[6] *Columbus Enquirer*, September 11, 1856, 3 (advertised the Beallwood Institute on the Hamilton Road, in great detail).

> Beallwood, in honor of three ladies now residing there, each of whose surname before marriage was Beall. Prosperity to the city of Columbus, health and happiness to her suburban retreats.

While the article does not tell us more about these ladies, we know from the various histories of Columbus by Telfair (1929) and Worsley (1951), and a family history of the Beall family, as well as biographical sketches of two of the three spouses, who the three couples were: Dr. Henry Lockhart and wife Mary Ann Beall, Robert Mills Gunby and wife Jane Louisa Beall, and William Henry Young and wife Ellen Augusta Beall.

The Beall sisters came from Warren County, Georgia, to Columbus at various times.[7] With the arrival of W. H. Young and family in 1855 from Apalachicola, Florida, by all accounts, including his obituary, that was when the settlement of Beallwood actually got underway. It is only after 1855 and this 1856 article, do you start to see references in the Columbus newspapers about Beallwood, including the deaths of various people, including Young's son, Robert A. Young in 1857.[8] People are stated to be living, dying, and marrying "in Beallwood" or "at Beallwood." There is nothing indicating that Beallwood was the actual name of any one house, even though some people may think that was the case.

The home of William H. Young is pictured in Worsley's history,[9] and the newspaper has an account of its burning in August 1896.[10] In this article, the house is referred to as being "in Beallwood." A later house built on or near the same spot was by 1951 owned by Dr. A. C. Hobbs, at 4641 Hamilton Road. This location today would be a block north of the Beallwood Baptist Church (former street address 4519), both on the west side of Hamilton Road. A Georgia Historical Marker honoring William H. Young is located nearby on Hamilton Road, at a shopping plaza just north of 47th Street.

The last remaining historic house that made up the core of "Beallwood" was that of Robert M. Gunby which was recorded in 1934 by the Historic American Buildings Survey.[11] Owned later by the Blackmon family, and by 1952, Jack T. Lester, the house, located at 4500 Hamilton Road, survived into recent times. Despite preservation efforts it could not be saved and was demolished ca. 1995-1996.

[7] Bertie Beall Cummins, *The Georgia Bealls and Their Kinfolks* (s.l.: the author, 1964), 46 (copy found at the Georgia Archives). The women were three of the ten children of Robert Augustus Beall and had three other sisters who did not move to Columbus and live in Beallwood.

[8] *Columbus Enquirer*, January 20, 1857, accessed October 15, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.. Article states he died at "Beallwood, Georgia."

[9] Etta Blanchard Worsley, *Columbus on the Chattahoochee* (Columbus, Ga.: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1951), 3, for the photo of the W. H. Young House, and 260-261 for the story of Beallwood.

[10] "The Young Residence Burned," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, August 6, 1896, 4, accessed October 15, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.

[11] Historic American Buildings Survey, Georgia 108, accessed October 1, 2011, http://memory.loc.gov.

Rose Hill

The 1856 article clearly shows that the term "Rose Hill" was already in use for an area of what is now the city of Columbus, but at that time was of course not in the city limits, which went no further than the northern boundary of the city cemetery. The 1856 article does not give any description of Rose Hill. Below we will discuss how Rose Hill became part of the City of Columbus, and later on in discussing the Cook family, who owned Rosemont and Belmont, will discuss how Rose Hill got its name. Rose Hill, even in 1856, would have had only a few residents on the estates and even by 1886, as the map shows, was not yet a major residential area.

Rose Hill appears in the online newspapers, as a searchable item after the Civil War, as a location where various people lived, not as anyone's particular house. Mrs. Laura B. Comer[12] is mentioned there in 1878, and by the 1880s, people are said to be living "on Rose Hill" and in 1883 the Chappell family are quoted as selling lots "on Rose Hill." It appears to have been in use before the Civil War, just not easily findable in the newspapers. A biographical sketch of Grigsby E. Thomas, Jr. (1842-1903), a noted lawyer, published in 1889 indicated that he was born in the Thomas family home "on Rose Hill" in 1842, although the area, as shown later, could not have had that name earlier than 1844. The sketch also stated that he still resided in the family home described as "on Rose Hill, one hundred feet higher than other portions of the city of Columbus, and from its summit, a beautiful view is obtained of the Queen City of the Chattahoochee..."[13] When addresses were established, the house was located at 2015 6th Avenue (also known as Thomas Avenue for a few years) and is illustrated not only in the 1889 sketch, but earlier on the 1886 map, as well as in various books and on a postcard.[14] Around 1914, a postcard shows the house occupied by Dr. J. H. McDuffie, Sr., as the McDuffie-Munroe Sanatorium, a hospital. By 1942, it had become the Oaklawn Chapel for L. H. Averitt, and was featured with a photograph and a full-page advertisement in the 1952 city directory as "Columbus' Largest and Most Modern Mortuary and Funeral Chapel." By 1954 it was the Shady Lane Inn boarding house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Grady H. Mullins. The house was listed as "vacant" in the city directories from 1955 through 1960 and by 1962 the address no longer appeared.

In 1886 the situation on Rose Hill changed with the creation of the Rose Hill Improvement Company[15] and the news that they had filed for a charter to sell real estate on Rose Hill. In the issue of

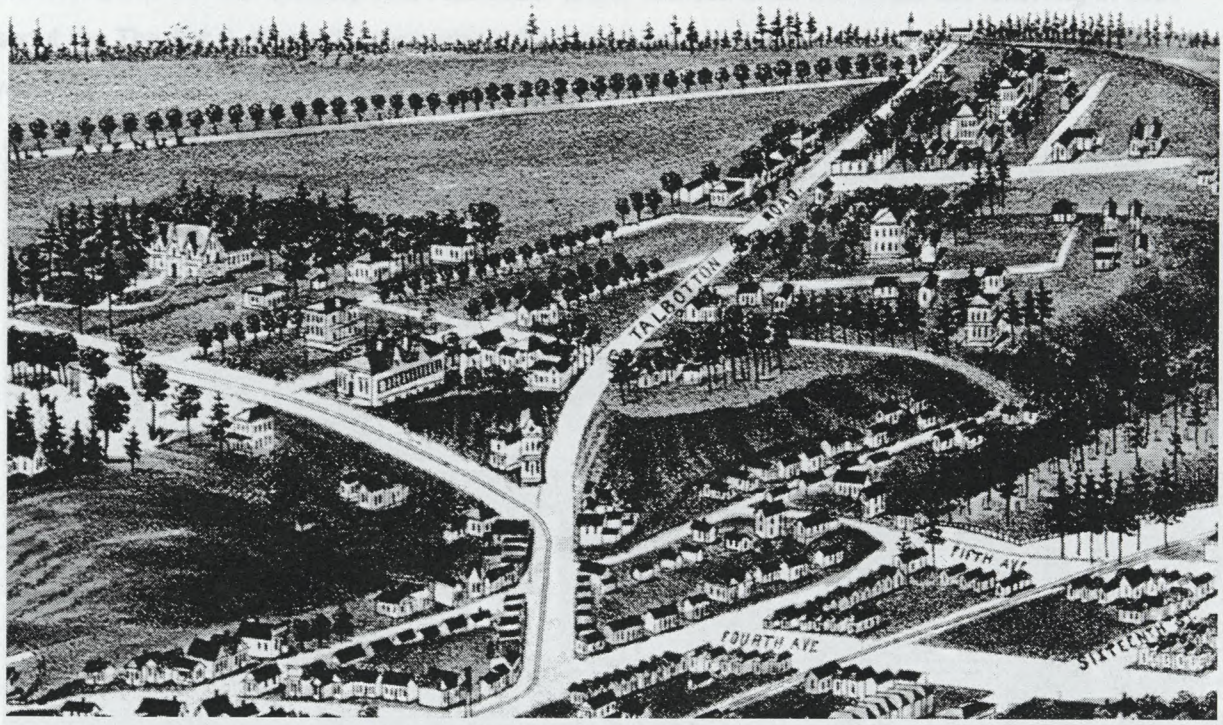
[12] Muscogee County, Georgia. *Deed Book N,* 559, Microfilm Reel 147-67 at the Georgia Archives, December 17, 1868. In this deed. James C. Cook, Jr., sells 20 acres of lot 71 in the 8th District to Mrs. Laura B. Comer, for $1600.

[13] "Sketch of life of Grigsby E. Thomas, Jr.," *Biographical Souvenir of the States of Georgia and Florida* (Chicago: F. A. Battey & Co., 1889), 721-722. Included before and after the sketch are a drawings of Thomas and one of the house.

[14] Worsley, *Columbus*, 258-259; Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., *Columbus, Georgia, in Vintage Postcards* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing Co., 2001), 86.

[15] *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, May 15, 1886, Digital Library of Georgia, accessed October 15, 2011, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu/enquirer/search.

August 15, 1886, there was even talk that it would petition to be a separate town, and there were efforts underway to incorporate it, as the city of Columbus did not want to annex it then. Another article about the 1886 Bird's Eye View map of Columbus by Wellge,[16] stressed the great bluff at Rose Hill. The map illustrates some of the houses then at Rose Hill, as well as the landscaping, and Rose Hill Park, which was located in the area east of the Grigsby E. Thomas house, and now is the area between 6th Avenue, Hamilton Road, and between 21st and 23rd Streets. The Rose Hill Methodist Church now sits on part of what was the park. Also shown is a roller skating rink across from the park and in front of "Rosemont," the former Cook home.



A detail of the 1886 Bird's Eye View map of Columbus by Henry Wellge
Courtesy of Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

The charter for the Rose Hill Improvement Company was granted in early 1887.[17] The newspapers for early 1887 indicate disputes over whether to add Rose Hill to the city, and apparently a vote was taken locally in March. Despite the ups and downs, Rose Hill shortly thereafter did get incorporated into the city of Columbus. An Act of the Georgia General Assembly was passed, and later signed by the governor on September 2, 1887, requiring a vote by the citizens of Rose Hill and Columbus, Columbus. A later act clarified the boundaries of the Rose Hill Annex, effective July 26, 1889, stating that

[16] *Ibid.*, December 12, 1886, 5. This 1886 Bird's Eye View map is part of a national series by Wellge, and on this map one clearly sees the beauty of the Rose Hill area.
[17] *Ibid.*, issues of January 26, 1887, 8, and January 31, 1887, 3.

the northern line of the annex to also be the north line (city limits) of the City of Columbus east to the east side of Twelfth Avenue which will be the east line of the annex, and the southern boundary would be the former northern boundary of the city, Cemetery Street sometimes called Linwood Drive. Essentially the Rose Hill Annex to the city ran one mile north of the original city limits to present-day 29th Street, as the later city directories listed addresses only that far.

Rose Hill, which for many decades was a viable neighborhood, has fallen on hard times in recent decades, but with interest in restoring houses there, and planning to nominate part of the area to the National Register of Historic Places, a revival is expected. The name Rose Hill can be found on an elementary school, Baptist and Methodist Churches, and earlier a Presbyterian one as well.



1918 postcard of the McDuffie-Munroe Sanatorium, formerly the Rose Hill home of Judge Grigsby E. Thomas
Courtesy of Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

Rosemont

The story of how Rose Hill got its name is tied to the James Carter Cook family, who came to Muscogee County in 1833[18] from Morgan County, Georgia. The family is linked to two antebellum houses, Rosemont, and Belmont, both now gone, as well as the naming of Rose Hill. Belmont, the Cook's plantation home, will be discussed later, but here we discuss "Rosemont," the home owned by James Carter Cook, Jr., and wife, from the 1840s until 1883.

James Carter Cook, Jr., at age 21, married on November 7, 1844, Mary Louisa Redd, and presumably moved to the property described below shortly thereafter. The chronology of the house is best described by Mrs. Worsley who was closer to the sources when she wrote the following in 1951 about the Thacker B. Howard House which she stated was later owned by James Carter Cook. The house which by then was numbered 629 Twentieth Street was pictured in her book, and she states:

> [the house] was owned for a number of years by James C. Cook, Jr. Mrs. Cook, who was Mary Louisa Redd, planted beautiful rose gardens, and a hedge of Cherokee roses, which extended around the point of the triangle formed by Talbotton and Hamilton Avenues. Others followed her example, and she named the neighborhood "Rose Hill," calling her own house, "Rosemont." ... In 1903, the J. T. Whatley family acquired the property and have held and treasured it for nearly fifty years. Mrs. Lowe was Miss Hannah Whatley." [19] [This last sentence refers to the then-owner, Mrs. Marcus Lowe.]

It should also be noted that in the 1840 Census, Thacker B. Howard was listed next to James C. Cook (Sr.), showing that their properties adjoined.

The younger Cooks appear to be living at the Rose Hill location in the 1850 census. In that census, it would appear that his mother, Mrs. Ann Cook, was living at Belmont, as she was at household no. 1 in the 8th District, and James C. Cook, Jr., and family were at household no. 201, also in the 8th District, next to the younger Mrs. Cook's brother, A. G. Redd at no. 203, and Mr. Cook's sister Elvira Sorsby at no. 202.

The Cook family sold "Rosemont," and surrounding acreage, in 1883, with a large advertisement appearing in the newspaper[20], showing the above described triangle of land, the A. G. Redd estate to the north, and the "Thomas estate" across Hamilton Road, all of which can be seen on the 1886 map. The advertisement heading was as follows:

ROSEMONT

The Beautiful and Well Known Place, occupied by Jas. C. Cook as a Residence

...will be sold at auction....Feb. 6th, 1883

[18] *1805, 1807, 1820, 1821, 1827 Land Lotteries, Fractional Grants...Index, 1805-1827*, Microfilm 285-93 at the Georgia Archives, 198. Shows Cook was granted lots 71, 88, and 89 as a resident of Muscogee County on February 12, 1833.

[19] Worsley, *Columbus,* 253-255.

[20] *Columbus Sunday Enquirer,* January 21, 1883, 2, Digital Library of Georgia, accessed October 1, 2011, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html.

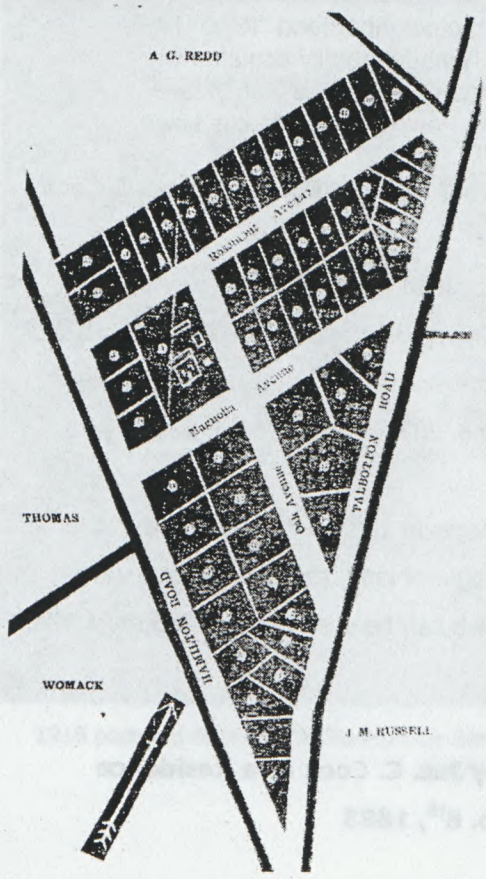
The January 1883 advertisement included the plat/drawing below which shows the main house remaining on a smaller lot, with the rest of the estate being divided up into smaller house lots, thus opening up the area for other people to build houses.



Left, Home of A. G. Redd, Mary Louisa Redd Cook's brother, and below right, Rosemont, home of James and Mary Louisa Redd Cook.

Both houses were photographed in the 1930s as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Photographs used courtesy of the Library of Congress, http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ga0361/





On the 1883 map drawn for sale purposes, the house icon represents Rosemont.

It is sometimes difficult to document when a name was first used for a house, as the newspapers of the day often did not mention the name of a house, and even in obituaries, people whose homes are well known and even survive today, are said to have died "in Wynnton" or at their residence "near Wynnton" rather than at their house or plantation which had a name, or is thought to have had one in general use. With Rosemont, a newspaper article from 1877 clearly indicates some of the activities associated with Mrs. Cook and "Rosemont." In response to an article reprinted from the *Atlanta Constitution* in the Columbus *Times*, criticizing some of the houses in Columbus as being rundown, the writer mentions that Mrs. Cook had established the "Rosemont Social Club" in September 1875 and held meetings at her house. [21] In 1880, the Rosemont Social and Music Club was to meet at the Cook residence on Rose Hill.

After selling Rosemont, the Cook family apparently returned to live permanently at their plantation house Belmont, only 7/10ths of a mile or so northwest of the Rosemont property. It is possible that Belmont was once too remote for them, but as Rose Hill was building up, it was not as far away from the city anymore.

The house, "Rosemont," on Rose Hill changed hands a number of times after the Cooks moved. When street numbers were assigned, it became first 615 20th Street, later changed to 629 20th. The city directories give an incomplete chronology of who was living in the house. In 1896-1897, William Slade was there, by 1898-1899 Mr. Cook's niece, Carrie Lewis Philips and husband Charles, as well as Grigsby E. Thomas and wife Emma were there. In 1900 just the Philips couple are there, and in 1902, John P. Norman and wife Sarah. In 1903, as noted by Mrs. Worsley, John T. Whatley and wife Lillie bought the property and moved in with their children, having previously lived close by.

The Whatleys had four daughters and a son. When their daughter, Nettie Ruth, married Professor Edward Scott Sell of the University of Georgia, in the house in 1914, the article referred to the house as "formerly known as 'Rosemont.'" After the deaths of the Whatleys, their daughter, Hannah lived there, later marrying Marcus Lowe. By the time of her death in 1966, she had sold the property and it had become the medical offices for Dr. Harold G. Jarrell by 1965. It was under his ownership that the house was torn down in 1991 after a new office was built. "Rosemont" was also photographed and recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936, being listed as the Cook-Thomas House. [22] The adjoining house of Mrs. Cook's brother, A. G. Redd, was also recorded in 1936 and is listed as being demolished ca. 1957.

[21] "Answer to Syam's Letter," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, September 4, 1877, 4; "The City of Spindles," *Atlanta Constitution* , August 23, 1877, 3, accessed October 15, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.

[22] Historic American Buildings Survey, Georgia 111, accessed October 15, 2011, http://memory.loc.gov .

This Rosemont is not to be confused with the 20th century neighborhood near St. Francis Hospital, where there was also a shopping center and elementary school with that name. That area began to be developed and used the name Rosemont as early as 1921.[23]

Belmont

Citizens today probably don't recognize the name of "Belmont," the name of the plantation house and grounds that existed from the 1830s til the 1960s and which was owned by the James C. Cook family until 1928. In researching this article, I learned of the importance of this property and how its division over time shaped the development of the northern area of Columbus.

The Belmont plantation/estate of James Carter Cook, Sr., appears to have encompassed in 1838, 1138 acres of land in the 8th District of Muscogee County, which included land lots 68, 70, 71, 72, 88 and 89,[24] with this acreage appearing in tax records in 1838 (1138 acres), 1845 (1038 acres), and 1869 (944 acres). It was said to have had a mile frontage on the Chattahoochee River and included what today is known as the Rose Hill area, Bibb City, Lover's Leap, and parts in between. Before 1838, Cook also owned lot 69 (sold in 1837), as well as lot 79, adding about 405 acres to his earlier holdings.[25]

According to an 1897 article, the Cook family had come to the Columbus area and were living in a substantial two-story log house when their daughter, Elvira married Battle A. Sorsby on November 4, 1834. The unknown lady reflected on these earlier times after learning of the loss of another log house, the one at Belmont, which she read about in the *Enquirer*. Her reflections are in "A Pleasant Reminiscence of 1833 Above the City." [26] She stated that when Mr. Cook, Sr., had moved to Western Georgia "he located on the eastern side of the Hamilton road, in the year 1833, afterwards known as the John C. Ruse place. I was then in my teens, but can remember attending the [Cook-Sorsby] wedding ...in the identical old log cottage that was burned a few nights since, which Mr. James Carter Cook [Sr.] occupied, while the home on the western side of the Hamilton road was being prepared, which is now the home of Mr. James Cook [Jr.]. [She is confusing here, since she is reflecting on a log house that burned, but meaning another house on the Belmont grounds, rather than the house then known as Belmont. This new home, built after the wedding, would thus be "Belmont."] She recalled that at the wedding there was a large wedding feast, and the fact that the older ladies wore heavy silk. She further describes the log house, the future Ruse Home place, as being "very comfortable old house, the interior

[23] *Columbus Ledger*, April 24, 1921, 9, accessed October 15, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com. Has an advertisement for a house for sale in this new area.

[24] 1869 Tax Digest of Muscogee County, Georgia, is the only one to list the actual lot numbers.

[25] Georgia Supreme Court Case Files, A-5507, Cook v. Pridgen *48 GA 331*, original at Georgia Archives.

[26] *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, November 21, 1897, 2, accessed October 1, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.

snugly sealed, fireplaces very wide, with heavy, solid rock hearths. The building was of hewn logs, and two stories." She said the log house on the Belmont grounds that had recently burned had brick floors.

The 1897 fire at Belmont property had burned "the frame servant's house in the yard and had spread to the large, old-fashioned log smokehouse." Both were destroyed, and only rain apparently saved the main house described as an "elegant residence."[27]

Other articles indicate what an important site Belmont was both for recreation and social events. The newspapers online have yielded an 1873 article referring to Belmont as the "estate of James C. Cook" and indicated that Lovers' Leap was a feature of the property, although the site, now the dam at Bibb City, was some 8/10ths of a mile away. Most groups who visited the site for picnics went first to Lovers' Leap.[28] In 1876, a Methodist Sunday School group was coming to visit, and "Belmont" was described as the "country seat" of Mr. Cook, 1 and ½ miles from the city, and on the North and South Railroad. It indicated the property had been settled in 1834 by his father, and the original house was still standing. [29] An 1889 article indicated that the lawns of Belmont went down to the Chattahoochee River. [30] Others indicate a play was performed at Belmont.



PIC-NIC PARTY AT LOVERS' LEAP, NORTH HIGHLANDS PARK.

Originally printed in *Lelulah; or The Heroine of Lovers' Leap* by Mrs. S. M. Chandler, 1892
Photograph used courtesy of Jane N. Grider

[27] "The Fire Last Night," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, November 17, 1897, 8.

[28] "Lovers' Leap," *Daily Columbus Enquirer*, August 29, 1873, 1, Digital Library of Georgia, accessed October 15,2011, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html. Another group visit is cited in an article on March 30, 1878, 4. They were to dance, and have lunch at Belmont.

[29] "Belmont," *Ibid.*, May 28, 1876, 3. Other articles followed giving more details of the visit.

[30] "Picnic on the River," *Ibid.*, May 5, 1889, accessed in 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.

In an 1883 article,[31] the lady of the house, Mrs. James C. Cook (whom we know from other sources was nee Mary Louisa Redd) was recognized as an accomplished author, with two published works, *Antebellum* and *A Woman's Peril*, and a third in the works. The article did not mention her pseudonym, but see below. She was described as "one of the most accomplished writers of fiction in the south." The writer also mentioned that "the walls of 'Belmont,' her beautiful suburban residence" contained art created by Mrs. Cook. In 1891, she died at "Belmont," having taken ill just as she was about to take a carriage ride with her daughter. The obituary mentioned her two books, above, "and other well known books." [32] Her funeral service was held at Belmont. She is buried with other members of the Cook family in Linwood Cemetery.

Mary Louisa Redd Cook may be one Columbus author that has been often overlooked, or forgotten about, but she was a published author during her years as mistress of Rosemont and Belmont. Online one finds in 1882 her book advertised for sale as *A Woman's Perils, or, Driven From Home.* In William Cushing's 1885 work *Initials and Pseudonyms: A Dictionary of Literary Disguises* her pen name is given as "Mary Lennox" and under that name you find the two books mentioned above, including a reprint of *Ante Bellum, Southern Life As It Was* (1868). After her death, her work *A Legend of Lovers' Leap and Poems* (1892) was published. When the North Highlands Dam was being built at Lover's Leap, and thus compromising the site, in the fall of 1898 by the Columbus Power Company to create the water power for the Bibb Mill, the *Enquirer* republished her story in full.[33] A more complete overview of her literary activities, including her second pseudonym of "Maggie Wildwood," used when she wrote articles in the *New York Home Journal*, as well as other aspects of her life, was written by Clason Kyle in 1968, and included a good photograph of Belmont. [34]

The area as of 1875 and changes noted on a return twenty years later was the focus of an 1895 article, "The Northern Suburb of Columbus," [35] when an unnamed former resident came back to visit. He mentioned Lover's Leap, having formerly visited the site going up river via Kellyville and Shady Grove church, in the Northern Liberties "which contained at that time a few cottages, inhabited by the poorer class of whites and negroes." [The Northern Liberties was just north of the original city limits and west of Rose Hill.] He said the changes over two decades caused him to lose his bearings, and specifically mentioned: "the power house on the electric car line was [in 1875] a large field of fine cotton and corn, known as 'Belmont,' the Cook farm." He also recalled the workers in the fields from 1875. Then he

[31] "Kind Words For A Columbus Authoress," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, April 24, 1883, 4.

[32] "Death of Mrs. James C. Cook," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, December 24, 1891, 5, accessed October 14, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.

[33] "The Legend of Lover's Leap...," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun,* January 24, 1899, 3, accessed October 14, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.

[34] Clason Kyle, "Local Lady was Post War Novelist," *Sunday Ledger-Enquirer Magazine*, July 28, 1968, 10-12.

[35] "The Northern Suburb of Columbus," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun,* January 10, 1895, 4, accessed October 14, 2011, http://www.genealogybank.com.

mentioned from 1895 "the magnificent park, where stands the 'Casino,' was then the finest body of woodland to be seen, extending in an easterly direction to Beallwood, on the Hamilton road, then in a southerly direction to Rose Hill proper... comprising about [1100 acres] ... and forming a part of Belmont." He recalled that "East of the city was a dense thicket of pine. Now will be found the beautiful Wildwood [Park we assume], lovely East Highland homes and drives."

The daughter of the Cooks, Mary Elvira Cook, known as "Mollie," is frequently mentioned in the newspaper in the 1890s and early 1900s as entertaining at Belmont, with various organizations, a play put on there, meetings, etc.

The 20th century brought great changes to Belmont, as the estate grew smaller with land sales and divisions. The century opened with Miss Cook and her father still living there, and her father, James Carter Cook, Jr., died there in 1901. The house was featured on a postcard ca. 1908 with the caption reading: "Belmont, Residence of Miss Mary E. Cook." By this time the house had a street address of 3109 7th Avenue, and the block of land it sat on was bordered by 32nd Street on the north, Belmont Street on the south, 6th Avenue on the west, and 7th Avenue on the east. Mollie Cook died at Belmont on March 12, 1928, just as the city of Columbus was preparing to celebrate its centennial. Miss Cook left "Belmont" and the remaining property, as well as an endowment, to the First Presbyterian Church, and a plaque there commemorates her donation.



Belmont, the home of the James C. Cook family
Postcard used courtesy of Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

In 1941, "Belmont" was mentioned as one of the historic places in Columbus, when a summary of its fate was given: "the immense tracts of land which formerly surrounded the old homes have been cut to oblivion ... and the old house if left standing is only too often a ghostly shadow of its once simple

elegance. Particularly is this true of Belmont ... The house was built in 1833 and was originally surrounded by 4,400 acres of land and whose boundaries ran from the Chattahoochee River to Jordan City. It was kept intact until 1869, when piece by piece the land began to be sold. Belmont today is said to be used as a factory boarding house." The address given was 3109 7th Avenue.[36] The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1929 shows the house facing east toward the railroad which had crossed the property early on around 1871-1872.

The last city directory to list it, that of 1962, showed it was divided into four apartments. It was torn down shortly thereafter. Today the final city block, across the street from a public housing/apartment complex, remains intact and could be a possible archaeological site. The site is about 6/10ths of a mile east of the Johnston Mill Lofts.

Belmont Street is perhaps the only remaining placename in Columbus related to this once important estate.

James Carter Cook Family, Owners of Rosemont and Belmont

The article, above, centers around three placenames related to the James Carter Cook family, both father and son, and the following genealogical details about the family should be helpful in understanding this early pioneer family in Columbus. This information was compiled from the family lot in Linwood Cemetery, as published with additional sources, as well as other research.[37]

James Carter Cook, Sr., per his obituary in 1844, was born in 1786 in Nottoway County, Virginia, and came first in 1807 to Clarke County, Georgia, then to Morgan County, and later to Muscogee. He left a wife, Ann C. Cook, son, James C. Cook, Jr., daughters, Elvira Sorsby, and Caroline Lewis. (Muscogee County, Georgia, *Will Book A*, pp. 36-37.) Cook died unexpectedly on October 22, 1844 due to a freak accident at his home, when a horse got frightened and he was knocked against a tree, and killed. [38]

Cook is said to have owned 4,400 acres of land, but tax records would indicate a far lesser amount. The 1838 Muscogee County Tax Digest indicated he owned 1138 acres in the 8th District and had 40 slaves. In the 1845 Tax Digest, after his death, his widow, Ann C. Cook, had 1038 acres and 18 slaves. In the 1850 Agricultural Census, Mrs. Cook is shown with 1100 acres, and producing 40 bales of cotton. To obtain full ownership of the estate of his father, James C. Cook, Jr. had to abide by the terms of his father's will, in which the property was to be divided equally among the three children after their mother's death. In 1854, he had settled with his sister, Mrs. Sorsby, and after his mother's death in 1864,

[36] Augusta C. Burgard, Frank U. Garrard, Jr. and W. S. Jenkins, copyright holders, *Columbus, Georgia, Fort Benning and Vicinity, History Maps and Guides* (Columbus, Ga.?: s.n. c1941), 16. Copy at the University of Georgia.

[37] Dolores Autry, updated and edited by Lea L. Dowd and Kimberly Martz, *Historic Linwood Cemetery, Columbus, Muscogee Co., Georgia, Vol. 3, Sections H-M* (s.l.: Lulu Publishing, 2011), 59-60.

[38] "Melancholy Accident," *Columbus Enquirer*, October 23, 1844, 2., Digital Library of Georgia, accessed October 14, 2011, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html. His obituary appeared on October 30, 3.

he had to wait until his other sister, Mrs. Lewis's surviving children reached 21. He was thus able to complete the division, settlement with them in 1868[39] by selling parcels to his nephew P. L. Lewis, Jr., and niece, Mrs. Caroline Lewis Bellamy (later Mrs. Philips), and after the settlement, to others, including Mrs. Laura B. Comer. Thus in 1869, James C. Cook, Jr. is shown with 944 acres. The digests cited are three of the five extant county tax digests before 1870 and none reflect the 4,400 acres attributed to Cook, Sr. He could have owned land in Alabama not reflected in Georgia tax records.

James C. Cook, Sr., married in Morgan County, Georgia, November 20, 1814, Ann C. Mitchell, a widow, who had previously been married in Morgan County, as Ann Clark Carleton, on July 25, 1809 to William Mitchell.[40] The notice spelled her surname Carleton and that she was the daughter of Col. Henry Carleton, of Morgan County. She had a son, William Henry Mitchell, by her first marriage, who also came to live in Columbus, living first near Rose Hill, and later in Russell County, and whose family members are buried at Linwood Cemetery. This son left many descendants, but after he remarried in 1866, he moved by 1877 to Rome, Georgia, and died in 1890 near there at his home "Elmwood," and is buried in Rome's Myrtle Hill Cemetery.[41]

Ann C. Cook died in 1864, having moved from Belmont. In the 1860 census of Muscogee County, Georgia, she appeared in the Wynnton District at household no. 43 near Joel E. Hurt at no. 48 (of Dinglewood). At no. 50 was the Dawson household (now Gordonido), and at no. 51, John Woolfolk, clearly indicating the Wynnton area.

James Carter Cook and Ann Carleton Cook had three children:

1. Elvira A. Cook, born November 2, 1819. She married in 1834 at their temporary home, Battle A. Sorsby, and was living in 1850 adjacent to her brother's home of Rosemont, on Rose Hill, see above. She died September 5, 1877, her husband having died July 28, 1864. They had no children.

2. Caroline Elizabeth Cook, born September 13, 1820, had married c. 1839 Pearce Lovick Lewis. She died on October 19, 1850 in Russell County, Alabama.[42] Lewis was a brother-in-law of Col. William L. Wynn, of Wynnton, and Mrs. Lewis is buried next to Mrs. Wynn at Linwood. In the 1850 Census of Russell County, Alabama, Lewis is at household no. 885 in the Summerville community. While the Lewises had a number of children, only two survived by 1868 to be part of the division of the Cook estate, which had been held intact until the widow's death in 1864. Those children surviving at that time were a son Pearce L. Lewis, Jr. (died 1917 in Birmingham, Alabama, where he is buried) and Mrs. Caroline Lewis Bellamy who later married second, Charles Philips of Columbus and had a number of descendants at the time of her death in 1918.

[39] Muscogee County, GA., Deed Book N, Microfilm 147-67, Georgia Archives, 291-292. Dated April 8, 1869.

[40] Faye Stone Poss, *Clarke Co. (Athens) GA, Newspaper Abstracts, 1808-1820* (Snellville, GA: the author, 1998), 40.

[41] Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages and Death Notices from the Southern Presbyterian, Volume III, 1880-1891* (Columbia, S.C.: SCMAR, 2011), 293.

[42] *Columbus Enquirer,* November 12, 1850, 3, Digital Library of Georgia, accessed October 15, 2011, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html; also visited her gravesite.

3. James C. Cook, Jr., born June 8, 1823, in Madison, Morgan County, Georgia. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1842, and married in Muscogee County, Georgia, on November 7, 1844, Mary Louisa Redd, only weeks after his father's untimely death. A wealthy land owner and planter, he died at Belmont on May 2, 1901.

Mary Louisa Redd, born July 15, 1825 in Greensboro, Georgia. As noted above, she was a published author of fiction and died in 1891 at Belmont. She was the daughter of Capt. Charles A. and Elizabeth (Gresham) Redd.

James C. Cook and Mary Louisa Redd Cook had the following children:

a. Charles Redd Cook, b. c. October 1845, d. August 5, 1850, age 4 years, 10 months.

b. Dr. James Carter Cook, b. September 28, 1847, d. May 22, 1878. He married Ella Martin, who died in 1910 in Washington, D. C., she was a niece of Gen. Henry L. Benning. They had two sons, James Carter Cook (1874-1936) who died in Atlanta, leaving two sons; and Benning Peyton Cook (1877-1941) who died in California with descendants there today. Dr. Cook was killed in an altercation with his brother-in-law, and a coroner's inquest was held.[43] Descendants on this line can be found at www.ancestry.com in their Public Member Trees section. No contact has been made with those who created these online family trees.

c. Henry Carleton Cook, b. March 22, 1849, d. May 30, 1909. He died at Belmont, having suffered paralysis on a trip in April. Unmarried, he spelled his middle name "Carleton," and his obituary indicated he was born at "Rosemont" and since his father's death had been a "gentleman of leisure." [44]

Note: These first three children were baptized by Rev. Charles B. King, the minister at First Presbyterian Church, on July 8, 1850, at the family home because Mr. Cook was not a member of the church at that time. The minister did this on a Monday morning, and noting that the oldest son died "about 4 weeks after his baptism!" [45]

d. Mary Elvira Cook, b. March 22, 1857, d. March 12, 1928, unmarried. She was the protector of Belmont during the last 25 years of the Cook family's ownership. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. At her death at her beloved Belmont, she left the property and an endowment to the First Presbyterian Church of Columbus.

[43] "Tragedy," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, May 23, 1878, 4, Digital Library of Georgia, accessed October 15, 2011, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html.

[44] *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, June 1, 1909, 3, Digital Library of Georgia, accessed October 15, 2011, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html.

[45] Carrie M. Adamson, "'A Journal of My Labours in the Gospel Ministry' by the Rev. Charles Barrington King,1850-1854," *Ancestoring* XI (1986) 44.

The Columbus Diary of Confederate Soldier James William Howard

By

Mike Bunn

Among the many treasures housed in the stacks at the Columbus State University Archives is the typescript of a short diary of a relatively little-known soldier, minister, husband and father named James William Howard.[1] Howard, a native of Tennessee, had served in the Confederate Army for three years in locations throughout the Western Theater of the Civil War before a twist of fate brought him to Columbus for its conclusion. The stories contained within Howard's brief entries recount his experiences in vivid and personal detail and shed light on what life was like in the city during one of its most turbulent eras. Relying on Howard's own words whenever possible, this essay attempts to summarize his experiences and place them in better context.

James William Howard was working in his uncle's drug store in Pine Bluff, Arkansas when the Civil War began in the spring of 1861. In a flush of patriotism, he, like many of his contemporaries, rushed to enlist in the Confederate Army. As part of Company A of the 9th Arkansas, Howard was sent first to Memphis before seeing action at engagements including Shiloh and Corinth. Captured in Mississippi in 1862, he was held for several months as a prisoner of war in Alton, Illinois before being exchanged and rejoining Confederate forces. Sent back to the Army of Tennessee in early 1864, he was assigned to duty with the army being gathered for the defense of Atlanta.

The events of May 13, 1864 would be a turning point in Howard's life, and ultimately bring him to Columbus. A sharpshooter deployed in a skirmish line, Howard was posted in advance of the Confederate line near Resaca, Georgia that day. His job was to sound the alert of the approach of the Union forces in their front and hopefully slow the advance long enough to gather troops at crucial points. Although a seasoned combat veteran by this point, Howard felt especially apprehensive that day. He recorded in his diary that "while lying there waiting I became so much worried that I took it as a presentiment that I would be shot in the battle so I got my Bible out of my pocket and wrote my mother's address on the fly leaf also a request for the one finding it to send it to her."[2]

[1] Howard, James William, Diary, Howard-Odom-Lifrage Collection, SMC 6, Columbus State University Archives, Columbus, Georgia Used with permission of the Columbus State University Archives. The typescript was originally prepared in 1904 from original papers in the possession of a Columbus family with input from Howard himself. Howard was born in 1839 in Tennessee and stated he moved to Arkansas in 1854. He worked on his family's farm until 1860. Some of the entries from the diary contained in this essay have been slightly edited for clarity. The great majority of these edits are in punctuation and capitalization.

[2] Howard Diary, May 13, 1864.

Howard and those in his section of the skirmish line caught first sight of the Federals about three o'clock in the afternoon. Immediately they began to exchange fire and steadily began falling back towards the main Confederate line, exchanging some of the first volleys in what would become three days of fighting known as the Battle of Resaca.[3] What happened next changed Howard's life forever:

> As we were falling back we came to an open field and I saw a Federal step out in plain view. He seemed to see me too. We both shot at each other about the same time and his ball went to my left. I could hear the ball sing. I said to myself 'you are scared.' The next round we took his ball went over my head and I said, 'too high.' Then as I had to bite my cartridge and he did not he got ahead of me and just as I put the cap on he shot. I had my gun lying across my arm and when I saw he was going to shoot I turned my left shoulder to him. This time his ball hit me on the left arm about one inch below the joint of the shoulder. When I found I was not shot through I attempted to raise my gun with one arm and shoot but could not. I then went to the rear and turned my gun and equipment over to the quartermaster. Then I went to the hospital and had my wound dressed.[4]

Howard's injury, which would debilitate him for the remainder of the war, would send him through a series of hospitals and ultimately bring him to Columbus.[5] He first set foot in the city on May 28, 1864. He noted that he was sent to the "Walker" hospital in the Banks building in town, which was so crowded upon his arrival that there was no bed available for him and he was forced to lie on the floor.[6] When the doctors their first examined him, they immediately wanted to remove the bullet which was still lodged in his arm. Howard refused and determined to take his chances, no doubt well aware of the dangers of surgery in Civil War hospitals and fearing that such a major procedure could very well lead to the loss of his arm.

Howard was not in town long before rumors began to circulate that the war was finally coming to Columbus. The city had been isolated from the combat to that point, but as the fighting raged around Atlanta and the Confederates continued to yield ground to the advancing Union Army, it seemed inevitable that shots would soon be fired in the Valley.[7] Reserve soldiers, and most likely a few area slaves, were put to work erecting defensive works around Columbus. On June 3, 1864, Howard recorded

[3] The Battle of Resaca, one of the first engagements between Confederate and Union forces in the series of battles collectively known as the Atlanta Campaign, took place May 13-15, 1864. Among the best overviews of the fighting at Resaca and the overall Atlanta Campaign is Albert Castel's *Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign of 1864* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1992).

[4] Ibid.

[5] It is unclear to what degree the injury ever healed. It apparently healed well enough for him to perform laborious work shortly after the war was over, but there as there is no record of the bullet ever being removed.

[6] Howard Diary, May 28, 1864. There were several temporary hospitals set up in Columbus during the war. Essentially, all that was necessary to transform a home or business into a hospital was space for beds and a few visiting doctors and nurses. In this way, numerous structures designed to serve other purposes were pressed into service to assist with the hundreds of wounded Confederate soldiers that were sent to Columbus for recuperation from wounds. While Columbus was an important hospital center for the region throughout the war to some degree, it assumed special importance as fighting raged around Atlanta in the spring and summer of 1864.

[7] Ibid., June 3, 1864.

that General Braxton Bragg made an appearance in Columbus, attempting to find all able bodied-soldiers that he could in the area for the defense of Atlanta. According to Howard, few if any could be found.[8] Still unable to use a gun in September, Howard was detailed to a doctor's office as a messenger. Later that month he apparently was sent to help with the construction of fortifications around Columbus.[9]

At length coming to the realization that his stay in Columbus might indeed be a long one, Howard in the fall of 1864 began seeking out ways to be involved in the community to better pass his time. He began attending the Baptist Church in Columbus with an acquaintance named Watson, and began to seek out female companionship in hopes of finding a girlfriend.[10] On a visit to church one night, he met a girl named Jane Hendrix and happily struck up a friendship.[11] That friendship would eventually blossom into a long marriage and make Columbus Howard's home. It was not a love story without some misadventure, however.

Only a month after Howard and Hendrix first met, it had already become routine for him to spend much of his free time with her. Apparently, on Sundays he commonly would go to her house in the morning and walk to church with her. His journal entry for October 9, 1864 relates that he was happy to see her and accompany her to church that Sunday, but "when the crowd started out and she showed more attention to another fellow I was sad. We went on to church but I didn't enjoy the service at all."[12] So dejected was Howard that when he got back to the hospital that night he could not sleep. Instead, he noted that he forlornly "walked the floor all night. I was heartbroken and would have been glad to have gotten in a battle and been killed."[13] One can only imagine the depths of Howard's despair as a lonely young man, far from home, who had seemingly been rejected by his closest friend. The next day proved better for him, however, as his diary entry states that despite feeling as if he did not "have much sense after not sleeping all night," he went to see Jane again.[14] He went determined that he would have to break things off if she neglected him again. Luckily, the visit went well. He recorded that "she treated me alright and I slept well that night."[15] The couple must have patched things up to his satisfaction, for the next entry in the diary mentioning Jane occurs in December in which he labels her "my girl."[16]

The fall of 1864 proved largely uneventful for Howard, as he recorded that he continued to attend church, make friends, and monitor the progress of the war. There was a brief scare in Columbus in November, though, in which rumors, later proven false, spread once again that Columbus was to be the target of Federal forces.[17] A relatively calm period in Howard's wartime experience was suddenly

[8] Ibid.
[9] Ibid., September 1 and September 23, 1864.
[10] Ibid., September 1, 1864.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid, October 9, 1864.
[13] Ibid., October 9, 1864.
[14] Ibid., October 10, 1864.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Ibid., December 24, 1864.
[17] Ibid., November 17, 1864.

broken by a bit of adventure in later that month. At that point, a more than likely bored Howard took it upon himself to apprehend a fugitive from justice named Culver who had been causing problems around Columbus. Displaying the brash determination that probably bore similarities to his decision to enlist in the army back in 1861, he decided to solve a problem local authorities seemingly could or would not. His candid and unpolished recounting of the affair is equally insightful for its information on Columbus at the time and what it reveals about him:

> There was a deserter who had been giving a lot of trouble to the citizens about town. He was armed with two revolvers and would rob houses. He was about town. He was a gambler. The citizens were complaining to us but everybody feared him as he was such a desperate character. Today I stopped at the house of a friend and saw him there. I went to the Captain of the provost guards and asked him for two revolvers and his belt, telling him I was going to arrest Culver. He told me I couldn't do it by myself but I told him I could. I went to the corner of ninth street and first avenue. He came out of the house which is between eighth (and) ninth streets on first avenue, went up sixth avenue to tenth street, turned back tenth street to town. About the middle of the first block there was a house that came right out on the sidewalk and in the front room a negro sold beer and cake. I didn't see Culver when he went in there but just as I was in front of the door and in three feet of him I saw him standing by a table with a piece of cake in one hand and a glass of beer in the other. I throwed my pistol on him and told him he was under arrest. He said, 'I reckon not', and commenced putting the beer and cake down. I told him that if he made a motion toward his pistol I would put a bullet through him. I was scared but I didn't let him know it. As soon as we were outside he said, 'You wouldn't shoot me, would (you)?' and I told him if he said another word I would shoot. I marched him out tenth street to the corner of Broad St. and there I saw two of the provost guards. I was never so glad to see them before. I told them to disarm him and I carried him up to the Captain of the guards and told him, 'Here he is.' He asked Culver if he let me take him alone and he said, 'Yes, for that fool would have shot me.[18]

Howard remembered that the prisoner was sent to headquarters, but that he never heard what became of him.[19]

Less eventful relationships with friends and family occupied much of Howard's time during the remainder of the last winter of the Civil War. He spent Christmas visiting Jane's sister's family, the Mehaffeys, and in January noted an unlikely and entirely unexpected visit from his brother, Joseph.[20] Joseph Howard was also a wounded Confederate veteran who found his way to Confederate hospitals courtesy of a Yankee bullet that struck him during the Atlanta Campaign.[21] On furlough, he had sought out his brother before returning to the front. The two spent much of their precious few days together talking and catching up. When James walked Joseph to the train depot to see him off, he recorded with unvarnished emotion that he did so with tears in his eyes.[22]

[18] Ibid., November 30, 1864.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid., December 24, 25, 1864 and January 2, 1865.
[21] Joseph was wounded in the Battle of Ezra Church in July of 1864. Ironically, Joseph suffered an injury to the left arm very similar in type and location to James'.
[22] Ibid., January 3 and 4, 1865.

Shortly after his visit with his brother, the war forced itself back into the forefront of Howard's thoughts. On January 18, 1865, he suddenly received orders that all men who were able were to be sent to the front.[23] His matter-of-fact telling of the scene this sudden jolt into reality after months of calm existence far from the front lines belies what must have been the intense emotion of the moment:

> I went to see Jane that night. We always sat by the front window where we could see the moon and tonight I told her I was going away but that at eight o'clock every night I would look at it and think of her and for her to look at it and think of me. We did this.

Howard was sent to Mississippi shortly after his moonlight visit, but was rejected as unfit for duty almost immediately upon his arrival and sent to another hospital.[24] Following a brief and unhappy stay at a hospital in Montgomery, noteworthy to him only because he received a letter from Jane while there, Howard finally received a discharge.[25] He immediately headed east for Columbus, noting that he had to travel on a train so crowded that he had to stand up during the entire trip (which would have been the better part of a day).[26] Nevertheless, he was "anxious to get there," and as soon as the train pulled into the station made a beeline to visit Jane.[27]

By February of 1865, it was obvious that the war was winding down. Most of the key Confederate cities and industrial facilities had either fallen or were under significant pressure. Columbus was one of the few major Confederate industrial centers that had escaped ravaging by Federals to date, but as Union forces pressed steadily deeper into the Confederate heartland this seemed certain to change to even the most casual observer. As a consequence, a growing fear that the city might soon be in the crosshairs of Yankee columns pervaded daily conversation among residents of the city.

Soon after his arrival back in Columbus, Howard was put on light guard duty for an increasingly apprehensive city overflowing with refugees of other locations that had been touched directly by the war.[28] Days of fasting and prayer, by this time in the war almost routine, assumed a special significance as Confederate forces suffered continued reverses. Howard, in his typical fashion, recorded such days with unadorned notes such as "today is fast day," leaving readers to imagine the palpable tension that must have been in the air as residents, aware of their precarious situation, appealed to a higher power for the town's safety.[29] Howard continued to carry on as normal a life as was possible in the spring of 1865, however, visiting his girlfriend, attending church, and performing his duties. A brief assignment in

[23] Ibid., January 18, 1865.
[24] Ibid., January 28, 1864.
[25] Ibid., February 15, 1865.
[26] Ibid., February 16, 1865.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid., February 18, 1865. The population of the city is estimated to have doubled during the war, from about 9,000 to over 17,000.
[29] Ibid., March 10, 1865.

Macon notwithstanding, he would stay in Columbus throughout the last days of the war and be on hand to witness one of the most dramatic chapters in local history.

The month of April started out inauspiciously for Confederate hopes on the banks of the Chattahoochee, as Howard recorded news of the fall of Richmond reached Columbus on the 5th.[30] He grimly confided to his diary that news was "bad all around."[31] A week later, he noted signs of the city's preparation for the seemingly inevitable clash, writing that "I see troops going out to breastworks. The signal guns standing in the streets to give warning should the enemy be approaching."[32] Two days later tensions were mounting as information, much of it still just rumor, trickled into Columbus regarding the raid into the heart of Alabama being led by Union General James H. Wilson. Designed to complement an effort to capture Mobile, Alabama and destroy the Confederate industrial center at Selma, the raid would ultimately bring the war to Columbus' doorstep. While nobody in Columbus could know exactly what the future held at the moment, there was growing concern that Union forces—Wilson's or possibly some other's—might be headed for the Chattahoochee Valley. Howard jotted down on Saturday, April 15th that "great excitement prevails over the city about the Yankees coming and the regiments are organizing and going out to the ditches (entrenchments)."[33] Unbeknownst the citizens of Columbus, Robert E. Lee had surrendered his army six days earlier in Virginia, and Joseph E. Johnston was already beginning negotiations that would lead to the surrender of his army in North Carolina. With the defeat of the Confederacy's two largest armies, the war was essentially already over.

As Wilson's army approached Columbus, though, preparations were in full swing for a resolute defense. A ragtag force of militia, factory workers, convalescents from the hospitals, and assorted citizens either too young or too old to qualify for active military service were turned out to the man the fortifications guarding Columbus for the imminent battle. Howard remembered that on the morning of Sunday, April 16th there was "great excitement still in the city. The guards were relieved by the citizens of Columbus and we went back to camps."[34] Not long before Wilson's troops were spotted just miles outside of Columbus, Howard and his cohorts were called back and ordered to guard the upper bridge.[35] Early in the afternoon he caught first sight of the Federals in Girard (modern Phenix City) and exchanged fire with them from the Columbus side of the river, but it was not until around eight o'clock that evening that the engagement became general. Howard heard sustained firing across the river in Alabama that night. Somewhere between nine and ten o'clock he witnessed the Confederate defenders start streaming back

[30] Ibid., April 5, 1865.

[31] Ibid.

[32] Ibid., April 13, 1865. Howard later noted to the person who transcribed his diary that on that date "the Confederate army had surrendered but we were ignorant of this fact."

[33] Ibid., April 15, 1865.

[34] Ibid., April 16, 1865.

[35] Ibid. The current sites of the Fourteenth Street and Dillingham Street Bridges were commonly referred to at the time as the "upper" and "lower" bridges respectively.

into Columbus where he was posted. Realizing all was lost, he ran for cover and "just did escape."[36] He remained in hiding in the house of his girlfriend's sister for the remainder of the night, where he could hear the Federal Cavalry "charging through the streets" of Columbus.[37]

At dawn Howard emerged from hiding, and, presumably realizing the Federals had occupied the city and he had no other option, surrendered to Federal troops.[38] He recounted that "they carried me near the fourteenth street bridge and put me in Colonel Mott's yard with the other prisoners. I stayed here until near sunset and then the Dr. called for all the wounded to go to the hospital. I put my arm in a sling so as to get out. They sent me to Marshall hospital."[39] The next day Howard went out and surveyed the devastation Wilson's men had left behind, observing that they had "burned all the government property, burned the mills and warehouses, but left the Palace and Empire Mills and burned no private property."[40] He occupied the day by collecting things of use that had were scattered among the wreckage or tossed out of stores by looters in the aftermath of the Federal evacuation. He noted that the "Yankees gave provisions to the poor, out of the stores."[41]

Columbus in the days after the battle must have been an eerie place, as much of the second largest manufacturing city in the Confederacy, which had hummed with activity just hours previously, sat smoldering and silent. Howard's entry for April 19th simply relates understatedly that "the city looks very lonesome and dull."[42] Signs of recovery appeared almost immediately after the battle, but the specter of war weighed heavily on the minds of citizens. Continuing fear and alarm pervaded the city for at least a week after the guns fell silent, as Howard noted that on the evening of the 20th "it was reported that the Yankees were near the city again but the report was false."[43] It was not until the 21st that he heard of Lee's surrender, and not until May 1st did he hear reliable reports that Johnston's army had laid down its arms."[44]

As were so many Southern soldiers, Howard was left jobless and penniless with the disbandment of the Confederate Army. The month of May, 1865 would be vividly remembered by him as a time of trial as he searched for order in his life. Everything around him had seemed to collapse. While drawing rations being doled out to those with no means of subsistence in the aftermath of the battle, Howard immediately began to search for work. Probably wearing the one good suit of clothes he owned, which had been given to him by "a good lady who lived east of the city," on May 8th he "left town, walking out a country road which ran just below Box Springs, asking at every farm house along the road for work."[45]

[36] Ibid.
[37] Ibid.
[38] Ibid., April 17, 1865.
[39] Ibid.
[40] Ibid., April 18, 1865.
[41] Ibid.
[42] Ibid., April 19, 1865.
[43] Ibid., April 20, 1865.
[44] Ibid., April 21 and May 1, 1865.
[45] Ibid., May 4, 1865; May 8, 1865.

Unfortunately, he was turned away at every farm. There were simply no jobs available. At length he came to a farm where the owner convinced him to abandon his fruitless quest for agricultural work and head back to Columbus to try his luck there again. Howard decided to heed that advice. To say he was in dire straits at that moment is an understatement, as he had blistered feet and not one cent to his name. So desperate was he, in fact, that he boarded a train to Columbus despite knowing he could not pay the fare in hopes he might be able to persuade the conductor to allow him to ride into town. The conductor, seeing his miserable condition, fortunately took pity on him and told him to "stay on and I could pay him when I got the money."[46] He confided in his diary that he returned to Columbus after his brief sojourn "very much disheartened."[47]

The city he returned to was making daily progress towards recovery from the war and already fully engaged in building for its future. Howard noted that Columbus had Yankee guards "placed all over it" as he went to obtain his parole and continue his quest for employment.[48] He at last found work at the Lowell Warehouse cleaning bricks from some of the industrial establishments which had been destroyed by Wilson's men for use in new construction.[49] It was backbreaking, monotonous labor, but he was glad to have it.

About the same time Howard got the job he had a visit from his girlfriend's sister, Abbie. Aware of the seriousness of their relationship and apparently approving of the match, she asked him why he did not go ahead and marry Jane. Pointedly asking if money to buy the marriage license might be the only obstacle, she gave him the necessary $1.50 on the spot.[50] Howard must have intended to marry Jane for some time previous to this conversation, and the end of the war probably provided the right moment in both of their minds. As early as May 4th, he had confided to his diary that his "friend" Jane had led him to believe she would marry him "although she did not say yes" yet.[51] Perhaps the job—and the $1.50—sealed the deal. He struck an agreement with Abbie for the rent of a room in her house as a home for him and Jane, and went to formally propose.

Howard arrived at Jane's house on the evening of May 25th just as she was walking out the back door with an armful of clothes to be washed. Succinctly, if not romantically, he "asked her if she could get ready to marry tonight."[52] She agreed on the spot with an equally unembellished and understated "I reckon so."[53] Likely aware of her sister's meeting with him two days prior, Jane did inquire wryly as to whether he had already received a raise at his new job. Nonplussed, Howard immediately went in the

[46] Ibid., May 8, 1865. There is no record in the diary indicating if he paid the debt.

[47] Ibid., May 12, 1865. At one of the farms at which Howard stopped he noted that he "heard everybody talk hard...abusing the Yankees for burning up the whole country."

[48] Ibid., May 18, 1865.

[49] Ibid., May 23, 1865. He was paid 40 cents for every thousand cleaned. He noted that the work was so hard that he "wore the ends of his fingers off."

[50] Ibid.

[51] Ibid., May 4, 1865.

[52] Ibid., May 25, 1865.

[53] Ibid.

house to talk to her father to get his blessing to the union. If Howard's diary is accurate, Jane's father probably had an idea that he would be approaching him about this matter, because his remarks were more in the way of advice than surprise at learning that his daughter would be exchanging vows that very night. According to Howard, in pointed reference to his financial situation, Jane's father simply said "she is her own woman and if she makes her bed hard she will have to lie on it."[54] Howard did not take offense at the candid nature of his father-in-laws assessment of their situation, acknowledging in his diary that "at this time it did look as if she would have a hard bed to lie on for I had no work or even a change of clothing and not a cent of money."[55] With both bride and groom in borrowed clothes, the couple was married at eight o'clock that night. They took a stroll into downtown Columbus after the ceremony, and Howard recorded that "the city never looked so bright and pleasant as it did tonight."[56]

The couple had moved into their new home by midnight. The move was made easy by the fact that their possessions were so few. Jane owned, or had been given, a bed, wardrobe, and some cooking equipment. Besides a tin plate he had used during his army days, Howard had only "a barrel of syrup and a sack of salt that I had got during the Yankee's raid."[57] Almost comically, he sheepishly added that "the salt had been burned a little."[58] Out of this handsome estate, Howard paid a drayman with two gallons of the syrup for transporting these items to their new home. The couple's first few weeks of marriage were lean times indeed; when Jane fell sick James had to sell a rasp he had found, which Wilson's raiders had thrown out of a warehouse following the battle, in order to buy medicine for her.[59] Probably on the dry goods box that served as their only table, he recorded on June 1st the four rules the couple had determined to live by going forward: "Buy nothing on credit...lay up some out of every pay for sickness...give 1/10 to the Lord...have family prayer."[60]

Howard moved from job to job in the coming years, finding work at a saltpeter works south of Columbus and later as a tenant on a farm in Lee County, Alabama. Shortly after the Howards' first child was born in 1867, the family moved to James' home state of Arkansas for a few years. By 1870, they were back in Columbus where they would make their home for the remainder of their lives.[61] James went on to become a prominent minister and founded Rose Hill Baptist Church. Even by his own admission, he was "fairly well off" by the mid-1880s when he proudly recorded the day on which he bought a nice home for his wife and children on the corner of Nineteenth Street and First Avenue in Columbus.[62] A

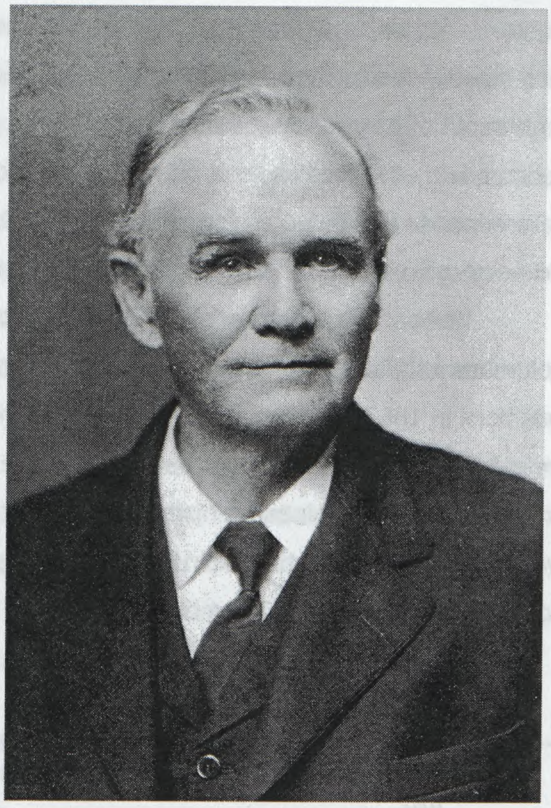
[54] Ibid.
[55] Ibid.
[56] Ibid.
[57] Ibid.
[58] Ibid.
[59] Ibid., May 28, 1865.
[60] Ibid., June 1, 1865.
[61] Jane died November 17, 1912. Howard died August 20, 1930. Both are buried in Linwood Cemetery.
[62] Ibid., October 12, 1885.

landmark event for any family, one can only imagine the satisfaction Howard must have had at the moment considering his experience some two decades earlier.

Howard's diary, chronicling just a short period in a long and eventful life, provides us with unique insight into one of the most intriguing chapters in Columbus' past. His detailed summary of day-by-day events help us better understand how the war affected both him individually and the city as a whole by capturing the mood of the time. Every individual living in Columbus during the last days of the Civil War had their own experiences which, were we able to read or hear them, would certainly fascinate us today. Because so precious few recorded their thoughts and deeds as did Howard, it is important we glean from his account all that we can if we are to appreciate what those chaotic days were truly like. While Howard's was the viewpoint of only one man; it is a perspective that enriches our collective understanding of daily life during a landmark event in our city's history. As those interested in better understanding that event and its continuing impact on regional history, we should be thankful that Howard chose to record his experiences. We should also be grateful that the Columbus State University Archives is committed to preserving such stories for future generations.



James W. Howard, CSA



Rev. James W. Howard

Used courtesy of Columbus State University Archives, Columbus, Georgia

A Quest for Muscogee County Cemeteries

By

John Mallory Land

As part of an ongoing effort to identify, document, and preserve historic cemeteries in and around Muscogee County, the Chattahoochee Valley Cemeteries Society[1] is gathering and verifying previous surveys of burial sites and creating new survey listings where none are known to exist. The first part of this article offers six local cemetery surveys, recently compiled by the author and Society member Linda Farmer Ames. The six cemeteries are Ogletree, Alexander-McBride, Goins, Fortson-Pruett, Radcliff, and the Muscogee Alms House. Of note is the survey for the Radcliff Cemetery, which contains information from over 270 gravestones of local African Americans buried there. The second section of the article contains updates and corrections to a cemetery list compiled by the author and published in "Muscogee County Private, Church, and Community Cemeteries," *Muscogiana* 21, no. 2 (Fall 2010): 29-34.

New Cemetery Surveys

Ogletree Cemetery

This burial ground is located at 5774 Winsloe Avenue, just north of West Britt David Road. The cemetery is a fenced tract behind houses in the 2700 block of North Walnut Street, the 5700-5800 block of Carlton Avenue, and the 2700 block of Vultee Drive, and it is technically bounded on the west by Winsloe Avenue. However, while plat maps show Winsloe Avenue and Ogletree Street meeting in an L-shaped intersection, Winsloe is not improved north of North Walnut, and Ogletree is not improved beyond a half block east of Springhill Avenue. Outbuildings have been placed on city and cemetery property here and extensive dumping of refuse has taken place both in the cemetery and on the city right-of-way. A fence has been erected across the west end of the cemetery, including across the lane that was used by wagon and foot traffic for burials and funerals as late as the 1920s, and now blocks access. It is said there were graves "down the hill" from this area (that is, to the north, toward Vultee Avenue), but it is not yet clear whether this refers to the cemetery known at Alexander-McBride or to another, as yet unidentified, site.

[1] The web site for the Chattahoochee Valley Cemeteries Society is http://www.chattahoocheevalleycemeteries.org/.

The property where this cemetery is located is said to have been owned by Missouri Walton Biggers, who married first 20 September 1855 in Muscogee County, Georgia, to Adam Jefferson Livingston, and second 18 February 1866 in Muscogee County to Claiborne Ogletree. She is buried at Linwood Cemetery.[2]



Ogletree Cemetery showing the grave described below
Photographed by Dick Brogden, Muscogee Genealogical Cemetery Project

A canvas of the site by the author in February of 2011 revealed that the one distinct grave at this site had been marked by an adult-sized brick box vault that probably had a marble tablet inlaid in the top or was capped with a marble ledger. Whatever was on top is now missing, exposing the inside of the vault and the grave shaft, and the brick sides have partially tumbled down. This is said to be the grave of George Ogletree (no further information on him has been obtained). The identity of the grave was related by a woman who grew up in a house behind the cemetery lot; the woman's mother still resides in that house.

Field stones seem to indicate other graves, including one that is certainly an infant grave. Evidence of tumbled-down rock cairns, as well as pieces of broken concrete that may have been parts of ledger monuments, were observed. However, because of extensive illegal dumping of such materials as construction waste, a cleaning and more thorough examination of the site will be necessary to confirm or discount the presence of other grave markings.

[2] John Schunk, "Descendants of Thomas Coleman (? -1817), Fourth Generation," accessed January 20, 2012, http://www.skcensus.com/genealogy/coleman/aqwg04.htm#1273.

In 1986 the following account appeared in a column published in a Columbus newspaper:[3]

> Local history buff Jean Harron seeks more information about the Ogletree cemetery, an abandoned four acres in Ogletree Woods [subdivision] in Columbus. Best sources say the Ogletree estate once included up to 3,000 acres on the north side of town. The home place was at what is now 5764 Pineview Ave. Family members and slaves were buried in the plot, bought in a package by Dr. A. C. Hobbs. Hobbs subdivided the land and sold off parcels, but could not dispose of the cemetery. He is believed to have died without a will. The city considers it private property, so it has grown up in brambles and weeds.
>
> Joe Forrest has been a cemetery neighbor since 1940, when he and his wife moved into the house at the end of Ogletree Street. He remembers when the graves were still visible. 'They're in there, buried just as tight together as you could put 'em,' says the retired house mover. When the Forrests arrived, the neighborhood was bounded by fields and a pecan orchard. As homes were built, children took shortcuts through the old cemetery. They were blamed for a brush fire that prompted neighbors to seal off the graveyard.

In 1985 and 1986, researcher June Hanna attempted to survey this site, but it was closed off and too overgrown to attempt. She mentions in her notes[4] that the closest residents at that time were Mr. and Mrs. Forrest and that they were the party who erected the fence across the west end of the cemetery. She was told by relatives that it is kinfolk of Charles Clayborn Ogletree who are purported to be buried at the site. During reconnaissance in 2011, the author made contact with a neighbor couple, the wife evidently being a daughter of the Forrests.

Alexander-McBride Cemetery

Located a block east of the Ogletree Cemetery is the Alexander-McBride Cemetery, an African-American burial site which is partly behind the residence at 2922 Vultee Drive and partly behind the one at 2914, occupying a portion of the back yard of each lot. A Columbus Consolidated Government property map indicates an easement from Vultee Drive to the cemetery, although the only access now has a gate across it, evidently placed by the homeowner.[5] The parcel ID is 071 037 007 (e.g. map section 71, block 37, tract 7), lying in land lot 44 of Land District 8.

The site was visited on May 12, 1986 by researcher June Hanna.[6] She reported that the chain-link fence, measuring approximately 30 feet by 50 feet, about six feet high with gate, surrounding the cemetery appeared to have been placed by the developer of the property or by a former owner of the land. It should be noted that this fence may not enclose all of the graves at this site. Hanna reported

[3] Priscilla Black Duncan, *Columbus Ledger*, May 12, 1986, B1.

[4] June Hanna et al, compilers, "Ogletree Family Cemetery (Site #43)," *Cemeteries in Muscogee County, Georgia* (Columbus, Georgia: Bradley Library, 1976-1985), 211. Copy at the Columbus Public Library, Columbus, Georgia)

[5] Property Map for 2922 Vultee Drive, "Public Access GIS Portal," Columbus Consolidated Government, accessed January 19, 2012, http://columbus-public.binarybus.com/app/.

[6] Hanna, "2922 Vultee Drive (Site #39)," 193.

only two graves, both marked, but surmised that there could have been others, as she observed large chunks of concrete and brick scattered in one corner of the fenced-in area.

The two graves are still marked (2011) with adult-sized concrete ledgers:

Rev. Isham V. Alexander / Born Dec. 21, 1891 / Died June 8, 1941

Willie May McBride / Born March 9, 1917 / Died May 11, 1941

The Georgia Death Index shows Willie M. Alexander, Colored female, died May 11, 1941, aged 24 years, in Muscogee County, death certificate #12562.[7] She is evidently the daughter of Isham. On the 1930 federal census, Muscogee County, Georgia, appear the Alexander family (all reported as Negro and born in Georgia): Isam (age 38, farm laborer), Blanche (34), Willie M. (13), Isam Jr. (11), Lottie B. (10), Eugene (8), Edward L. (6), Manuel (6), Thos. J. (2 years, 2 months), and Mable E. (1). [8]

The rear lot line of the houses along this street is said to have been the boundary of the Adams Plantation property, which reportedly stretched northward to present-day Weems Road.

In the previously-mentioned newspaper column, neighborhood resident Joe Forrest also mentioned the existence of a black cemetery nearby the Ogletree Cemetery. He said that there had been "two or three funerals out there after we moved in the area" [1940].[9] He may have been referring to the Alexander-McBride Cemetery. Further investigation is warranted to determine if there were other graves in the vicinity of Ogletree.

The newspaper column also mentioned that the then-owner of the land on which the purported black cemetery was located denied knowledge of the cemetery.[10] The property owner's response to the columnist's inquiries is perhaps indicative of a perspective that may be very detrimental to the preservation of small cemeteries and could potentially allow the kind of desecration that has befallen Ogletree and Alexander-McBride cemeteries.

[7] Death Certificate for Willie M. Alexander, #1256??, *Georgia Deaths, 1919-1998*, accessed January 19, 2012, http://www.ancestry.com.

[8] U.S. Federal Census, 1930, Georgia, Muscogee County, McCrary District, E.D. 29, 114, accessed December 1, 2011, http://www.ancestry.com.

[9] Priscilla Black Duncan, *Columbus Ledger*.

[10] Ibid.

Goins Burying Ground (surveyed November 3, 2010)

This cemetery is located on a hill east of the railroad tracks running along Fortson Road, just south of where the road crosses the tracks. It is situated on property owned by Vulcan Materials Company, and the author was escorted to the site by Vulcan employee, Mr. Xavier Holmes. Access was gained through a gate off of Fortson Road, just north of the railroad crossing, thence following dirt-and-gravel roads circling around to a point south of the cemetery, where the survey team parked and walked up the hill. The immediate vicinity of the few marked graves is surrounded by a chain-link fence, measuring about 12 feet square, which Mr. Holmes stated had been erected by Vulcan. There are trees of the size and type typical to an older cemetery outside this fence, and a patch of bud flowers outside the gate may be indicative of a grave. The remnants of a barbed-wire fence run quite some distance north and south, beyond the west side of the chain-link-fenced area. Power lines have been run north to south past a copse of trees to the east of the fenced area. The gate is on the east side, at the southeast corner. There are four graves marked, all oriented east-west. Beginning in the northeast corner and working southward in a row:

Plain, adult-sized concrete ledger; no markings.

Adult-sized concrete ledger: "J. W. Goins / Father" (No dates or other markings).

Adult-sized concrete ledger, the surface of which has crumbled away, exposing the underlying aggregate. If there were any markings here, they have been lost; no identification of any kind.

To the south and west of #3, in what would be the second row, is only one marked grave:

Adult-sized concrete ledger in the same condition as #3; no identifying markings.

No obvious grave depressions are evident, but unmarked graves inside of the fence, and perhaps outside of it, appear likely.

J. W. Goins (#2 above) is evidently John William Goins (December 23, 1862 Georgia-February 28, 1928 Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia), son of John and Martha (Crouch) Goins. He married April 8, 1888 in Muscogee County, Georgia, to Martha Clara Anthony.[11] His death certificate reports that he died while residing on Neal (probably same as Neill) Drive in Columbus and was buried at Goins

[11] "Anthony/Harris Family Tree," accessed January 24, 2012, http://www.ancestry.com.

Burying Ground.[12] He was survived by his wife, and the informant on his death certificate was Mrs. C. E. Buck of Columbus. This is evidently his daughter, Winnie O. Goins, who married Cecil E. Buck; he was a building contractor, and they were residing at 707 Twenty-third Street in 1928.[13]

Others whose burials at this site are likely, but not proved, are:

Martha E. (Crouch) Goins (March 3, 1838 Georgia-June 27, 1915 Fortson, Muscogee County, Georgia), widow of John Goins and mother of John William Goins above. Her published death notice reports that she was survived by sixty-eight persons, being five children, thirty-six grandchildren, and twenty-seven great-grandchildren. She was buried in the "family burying ground." [14]

Martha Clara (Anthony) Goins (March 4, 1867 Georgia – February 26, 1929 Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia), daughter of Samuel Wesley & Mary Ann Frances (Motley) Anthony and widow of John William Goins above. Her death certificate records her place of burial as "Family cemetery Muscogee Co."[15]

Mabel Goins (ca. 1901 Georgia - December 20, 1918 Fortson, Muscogee County, Georgia), daughter of John William & Martha Clara (Anthony) Goins. Mabel's death certificate reports her place of burial as "Fortson, Ga."[16]

Albert W. Goins (December 21, 1889 Georgia-December 18, 1927 Fortson Rural Free Delivery, GA), son of John William & Martha Clara (Anthony) Goins. Albert's death certificate reports his place of burial as "Fortson, Ga."[17]

To reiterate, the above are not proved burials at the Goins Burying Ground, but are likely. Note that early burials in the Getzen Memorial Baptist Cemetery are sometimes reported as simply "Fortson, Ga.," and a brother of John William Goins named James Andrew Goins (1858 – 1928) is buried at Getzen.[18]

[12] Death Certificate for J.W. Goins, #4906 (1928), *Georgia Non-Indexed Death Certificates*, 1928-1930, accessed January 24, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/nondeath.php.

[13] *Polk's Columbus (Georgia) City Directory, 1928, including Bibb City* (Richmond, Virginia: R.L. Polk & Company Publishers, 1928), 130.

[14] Obituary for Mrs. Martha E. Goins, *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, June 29, 1915, 8, accessed January 19, 2012, http://www.genealogybank.com.

[15] Death Certificate for Mrs. Martha Goins, #6187 (1929), *Georgia Non-Indexed Death Certificates*, 1928-1930, accessed January 24, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/nondeath.php.

[16] Death Certificate for Mabel Goins, #1232 (1918), *Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927*, accessed January 23, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php.

[17] Death Certificate for Albert W. Goins, #3715 (1927),*Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927*, accessed January 23, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php.

Fortson-Pruett Cemetery (surveyed December 3, 2010)

This cemetery is situated on land owned by the Vulcan Materials Company. From the onsite office, the visitor was conducted by company representative Mr. Xavier Holmes onto the grounds, around a rather large quarry pit, then along a dirt road part of the way up a hill on the south side of the pit. This large, steep hill was created when the dirt and rock excavated from the quarry pit was deposited to the south of the pit, past the cemetery. (Incidentally, at the time of the visit, the deepest point of this pit was said to have reached 65 feet below sea level, and the area where this granite quarry is situated is among the highest points in Muscogee County.) The cemetery is on the south side of the dirt road and is enclosed in chain-link fencing, with a gate at the northwest corner; this fencing was evidently placed by the Vulcan Company. The hill continues to rise at a fairly steep angle to the south of the cemetery, and a substantial concrete barrier, perhaps 10' to 12' high, has been placed by the company along the tract's southern boundary. Mr. Holmes explained that this was intended to block any rubble that might roll from higher on the hill before it could enter the cemetery and damage any of the graves.

The area enclosed by the fence, about 66 feet from north to south and perhaps as long from east to west, was fairly cleared off, but did have scrub growth scattered throughout. It is not certain that all of the graves at the site were necessarily within the fence; if no ground-penetrating radar has been conducted at the site, forensic investigation of this type should reveal where all of the graves are. The following graves were observed:

Row 1

1. A stone cairn at about the center of the row, at the head of which is a marble tablet, broken off at the base: "(weeping willow) / Sacred / to the Memory of / Mrs. Eliza A. / wife of /Thomas D. Fortson / Born in Upson Co., Ga. / Dec. 23, 1826 / died March 28, 1851" At the foot of the cairn is a small marble marker, bearing the initials, "E. A. F."

Remarks: Eliza Ann Pruett married November 24, 1840 in Muscogee County, Georgia, to Thomas D[aniel] Fortson.[19] Thomas (August 15,1815 Elbert County, Georgia– December 16, 1885 Muscogee County, Georgia) was reportedly the son of Jesse & Mary Ballenger (White) Fortson.[20] On the 1850 federal census of the Eighth Land District in Muscogee County, Thomas and Eliza are farming, with

[18] Death Certificate for James A. Goins, #30466 (1928), *Georgia Non-Indexed Death Certificates*, 1928-1930, accessed January 24, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/nondeath.php.

[19] John H. Martin, *Columbus, Geo., From Its Selection as a "Trading Town" in 1827 to Its Partial Destruction by Wilson's Raid, 1865* (Columbus, GA: Thos. Gilbert, 1874), 1:114.

[20] "Bartlett Family Tree," accessed January 24, 2012, http://www.ancestry.com.

property valued at $3,000; with them is a son, Henry P.[21] He is evidently Henry Pruett Fortson (July 17, 1844 – September 10, 1934). This strongly suggests that Henry Pruett, buried next to Eliza, is her father. Also, it seems unlikely that Eliza would have borne only one child in the ten years since her marriage. Had the couple lost one or more children who might be interred at this site? After Eliza's death, Thomas married second on September 30, 1851 in Muscogee County to Georgia E. Mealing (1832-1879).[22] Thomas and Georgia were the parents of at least three children[23] and are buried in the Mealing Cemetery on Whitesville Road in Muscogee County.[24]

2. To the east is a marble tablet head marker: "(weeping willow) / Sacred / to the memory of / Henry Pruett / born / in Hancock Co., Ga. / Nov. 14, 1802 / died / March 12, 1845"

3. At the east end of this row, near the fence, is a rather pronounced adult-sized grave depression.

Row 2

4. At the foot of the grave of Elizabeth A. Fortson, a stone cairn with no identification, and to the east:

5. At the foot of the Henry Pruett grave, another stone cairn.

6. At the east end of this row also, near the fence, is an adult-sized grave depression.

Row 3

While enough space exists to accommodate a third row here, there is no perceptible evidence of graves.

Row 4

7. To the west, near the fence, two adult-sized concrete ledgers. The one nearest the fence has no recognizable markings.

8. The other is severely deteriorated, but partly appeared to reads: " C E _ R L (or C?) M A _ / Born Dec 26 1858 / Died Sep 25 1881"

[21] U.S. Federal Census, 1850, Georgia, Muscogee County, District 8, 415A, accessed January 24, 2012, http:www.ancestry.com.

[22] Martin, *Columbus, Geo.,* 2:52.

[23] U.S. Federal Census, 1860, Georgia, Muscogee County, District 8, 343, accessed January 24, 2012. http:www.ancestry.com.

[24] Hanna, "Mealing Family Cemetery (Site #19)," 76-78.

9. In about the center of this row, again in line with the grave of Elizabeth A. Fortson, another stone cairn with no identifying markings.

Row 5

10. At the west end, near the fence, a stone cairn with no identification.

11. – 18. A series of concrete ledgers, all apparently adult-sized, except the last(#18), which seems to be an infant or child. None have identifying markings. #15 has a rather large tree growing at its head. #16 is nearly centered with the Elizabeth A. Fortson grave.

Row 6

Although there is enough space between Row 5 and the south run of fence, this row also has no perceptible evidence of any burials.

There were several other depressions that may or may not have indicated graves, but were not as pronounced as the two mentioned above (#3 and #5).

This site was also surveyed by June and Lewis Hanna on October 4, 1981.[25]

Radcliff Cemetery (A.K.A. Wynnton Hill Cemetery)

This cemetery, which has historically served the African-American community, is located behind Carter Monumental Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at 559 Radcliff Avenue in Columbus, near the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Lawyers Lane. The cemetery lies east and southeast of the church house. A deacon related that the land for a church and cemetery was given by a bank in June 1929, but that the Carter Monumental congregation does not presently hold a deed for the cemetery tract. The Columbus Consolidated Government property map shows the address for the cemetery on Seventh Street, which it barely fronts, rather than on Radcliff Avenue, from which it is cut-off by the Carter Monumental property. There is a church at 2614 Seventh Street, adjacent to the cemetery, and another church house (presently defunct) at 2624 Seventh Street, at the intersection with Willow Street. The cemetery may have formerly been associated with a congregation housed at one of these addresses. Following a period during which pauper burials were carried out with no evident organization and plots began to encroach on the Carter Monumental churchyard, the cemetery was

[25] Hanna, "Graves at Vulcan Quarry (Site #31)," 186.

closed to further burials. The latest known burial, that of Vincent Lamar Butts, dates from 1990. The congregation of Carter Monumental mows the grass and levels off the grave sinks, but is not able to maintain or repair the monuments.

The earliest marked burial is that of Laura Watson in 1898, although graves could have been moved to this site from one or more other locations. Entries among early death certificates (1919-1930) call this site Wynnton Hill Cemetery. It is not known when the name shifted to Radcliff, but this evidently stems from an association either with Radcliff Avenue or with the Radcliff School, which formerly stood to the south of the cemetery, fronting Radcliff Avenue just north of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (previously known as Brookhaven). A historical marker, bearing the following text, is posted on that lot:

> In the fall of 1914 Radcliff School was organized in Allen Temple A[frican] M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Church [located at 1120 Thirty-eighth Street]. At that time it was known as Wynnton Hill School. J. L. Bond was principal and the first head teacher was Mrs. S. A. Cody. When the building burned, the school was relocated to Wynnton Hill Baptist Church and later Primitive Baptist Church. In 1929, the school name was changed to Radcliff after a new building was erected on land purchased through a grant from the Rosenwald Foundation. Mrs. Cody was principal with an enrollment of 100 pupils. Radcliff became a junior high in 1940 and, in 1944, became the second senior high school in Columbus for blacks. Mr. B. F. Mosely was principal from 1935-1952 and Dr. M. A. Clarke and Mr. B. T. Stafford followed him. Radcliff was destroyed by fire in 1971. Erected 1993 by Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Muscogee County School District, and Radcliffonians.[26]

No record of burials at this cemetery is known to exist. The following list was taken from a survey of grave monuments conducted in December of 2010 by Linda Farmer Ames and the author. A number of the graves have a monument with no identifying markings, and there is evidence of many, many unmarked graves. Also, some monuments that probably bear identifying markings have subsided and cannot presently be read. The team also consulted early death certificates and newspaper death notices, supplemented from other sources, such as the Georgia Death Index.

The rows of graves in this cemetery are not consistent, at points merging together or diverging and with new rows initiated midway through a given section. Although some graves appear to be grouped together by family, lots are set off by curbing or coping in only a few instances. Therefore, this list is presented in alphabetical order.

[26] Radcliff School, "Historic Markers, Georgia," Historic Chattahoochee Commission, accessed January 24, 2012, http://www.hcc-al-ga.org/tour_markers.cfm?GetPage=2&County=13.

Adams, Ali Jay (15 MAY 1907-29 JUL 1978)
Adams, Carey K.K. (02 MAR 1859-09 NOV 1985)
Adams, Earnest (1914 – 19 DEC 1989)
Adams, Zannis L. (23 APR 1963-07 MAR 1974)
Akers, George (10 SEP 1930-03 MAY 1988)
Alexander, Lizzie (06 NOV 1860-04 FEB 1944)
Allen, Lulleane (08 JUL 1911-09 JUN 1980)
Arnold, Edward (24 DEC 1942-29 JAN 1943)
Ashe, John (17 MAY 1907-19 MAR 1988)
Bailey, Cora Mae (03 JUN 1925-25 DEC 1959)
Ballard, Wm. Henry, Jr. (14 APR 1911-16 JUL 1920)
Ballard, William S. (13 SEP 1868-16 DEC 1939)
Bass, Henry, Rev. (01 MAR 1904-07 MAR 1968)
Bellint, Hattie K. (15 DEC 1914-29 JUL 1988)
Belt, Nunnie (24 DEC 1901-09 MAR 1931)
Biggers, Lucile (05 JUL 1917-22 SEP 1950)
Blanton, Pearlie G., Mrs. (d. 20 JUN 1942, age 19)
Booth, Charlie (10 MAR 1923-01 JUL 1972)
Borum, Joseph (12 APR 1919-07 MAY 1919)
Brantley, Justine Radford (25 MAY 1919-02 JAN 1943)
Broadnax, Willie Mae (1910-10 APR 1923)
Brown, Annie (no dates)
Brown, Curlie Mae (26 SEP 1910-15 APR 1980)
Brown, George L. (18 JAN 1891-31 OCT 1939)
Brown, J. H., Rev. (1921-1951)
Brown, James (1898-19 APR 1923)
Brown, Ola (26 FEB 1896-05 AUG 1919)
Brown, Oliver J. (24 JUN 1929-23 FEB 1969)
Bryant, Early (05 SEP 1910-14 MAY 1979)
Burrous, Elrita (1856-14 JUL 1934)
Burrous, Lola (25 OCT 1885-06 SEP 1948)
Bussey, Eugene (1904-26 OCT 1925)
Butts, Vincent Lamar (01 FEB 1903-01 JAN 1990)
Carter, Marie (19 MAY 1916-19 FEB 1978)
Cheatham (no dates)
Chester, King, Jr. (18 APR 1927-25 NOV 1981)
Chester, Vinnia (d. 08 NOV 1961)
Cleveland, Claude (26 SEP 1915-27 MAR 1979)
Coachman, Ezell C. (1875-12 DEC 1929)
Cochran, Andrew C. (22 JAN 1895-22 DEC 1969)
Comer, Lucinda (16 JUL 1898-03 SEP 1967)
Cooper, Georgia (03 MAR 1911-14 NOV 1953)
Copeland, William (05 OCT 1910-20 SEP 1970)
Crews, unknown (21 MAY 1904-26 SEP 1910)
Crumbley, Willie (14 OCT 1887-07 JUL 1985)
Daniels, Mattie (21 FEB 1892-18 MAY 1950)
Davis, Annie (08 FEB 1898-21 JUL 1979)
Davis, Dora (07 JUL 1921-01 FEB 1981)
Davis, Gary Lamar "Cutty" (18 JUN 1962-09 SEP 1988)
Davis, Louis E. (25 AUG 1912-25 JAN 1945)
Davis, Maria (10 JUN 1882-10 NOV 1941)
Denmon, Tycobb (1918-16 APR 1985)
Dickens, Herbert (22 JAN 1912-22 AUG 1977)
Dowell, Julius (03 APR 1925-04 APR 1969)
Dozier, Ewoodie (08 DEC 1895-20 MAR 1959)
Dunn, Ruth Lee (15 APR 1905-23 AUG 1972)
Edwards, Fred (d. 15 APR 1926, age about 50)
Egins, J. R. (04 JUN 1866-14 JAN 1940)
Egins, Mary E. (22 MAY 1881-23 MAY 1950)
Egins, Warren (19 MAY 1893-29 JUL 1961)
Ellison, Earnest (1887-22 NOV 1973)
Etheridge, William H. (04 FEB 1899-22 FEB 1937)
Evans, Claudie (28 SEP 1895-29 AUG 1929)
Evans, Robert "Bob" (09 AUG 1900-14 MAY 1947)
Flint, Frank, III (17 OCT 1965-31 OCT 1969)
Flint, J. S., Rev. (09 MAR 1874-09 FEB 1944)
Ford, Annie Mae (30 OCT 1938-02 SEP 1951)
Fortson, Eddie (03 SEP 1926-14 APR 1981)
George, Gibson (infant, b. 28 JUN 1922)
Gray, B. Maulon Waiok (infant?, d. 1953)
Green, Mandy Butts (06 SEP 1888-19 MAY 1963)
Greer, Lucy Jane (12 FEB 1879-10 APR 1952)
Grier, Mary Hollis (d. 18 JUN 1920, age 19)
Grier, Tommie (24 APR 1906-28 NOV 1918)[134]
Hardy, Larry (06 JUL 1952-24 SEP 1979)
Harmon, Hattie Mae (04 JUL 1909-27 MAR 1988)
Harmon, W. C. (15 MAR 1900-08 OCT 1979)
Harris, Alex (d. 22 JUN 1963, age 58)
Harris, Allen (1857-08 SEP 1938)
Harris, Annie P., Mrs. (18 APR 1883-19 SEP 1930)
Harris, Berry (15 JAN 1890-28 MAR 1933)
Harris, Bertha (10 MAR 1875-30 NOV 1946)
Harris, James (1902-28 JAN 1981)
Harris, Jimmie Lee (26 FEB 1923-28 JAN 1972)
Harris, Junor (d. 28 MAR 1953, age 69 or 89)
Hartman, Nathaniel Pedro (29 AUG 1893-25 AUG 1966)
Hawkins, Willie Tom (20 MAR 1912-21 APR 1947)
Henry, Jane (MAY 1851-JUN 1910)
Hicks, Bennie, Elder (SEP 1877/1897-23 FEB 1946)
Hicks, Eva Lamar (1879-16 NOV 1962)
Hill, Sylvia Ann (18 JUL 1971-05 NOV 1971)
Hines, Lemroy (10 NOV 1908-15 MAY 1983)
Hines, Maggie L. (03 MAR 1943-12 JAN 1944)
Hines, Willie James (MAY 1911 – 1989)
Holeman, Willie L., Mrs. (10 MAY 1910-09 OCT 1981)
Holland, Charlie (29 NOV 1869-14 JUL 1939)
Holland, Clarence (1908-25 AUG 1925)
Hollis, Isaac (10 APR 1892-21 NOV 1983)
Hollis, Tommie J. (04 APR 1908-03 NOV 1990)
Hood, Sylvania (25 SEP 1919-04 MAR 1981)
Howard, James (16 JUL 1917-05 SEP 1969)
Howard, John (1841-27 JUN 1921)
Howard, Lula (1867-17 FEB 1934)
Hudson, Lewis (03 MAR 1894-25 FEB 1955)
Hudson, Marsha (16 SEP 1888-14 SEP 1942)
Huling, Elizabeth (30 APR 1923-12 APR 1973)
Hunt, Monroe (d. 17 JUL 1929, age 49)

[27] Grave monument shows he died 1920, aged 12 years, but his death certificate and a newspaper account both report November 28, 1918 as the death date.

Hurt, Fredonia (d. 21 JUL 1929, age 47)
Jackson, Andrew (09 OCT 1896-02 SEP 1974)
Jackson, Anthony (1917-29 JUN 1977)
Jackson, Fannie Mae (02 JAN 1924-11 JAN 1978)
Jackson, John (1890-27 NOV 1927)
Jackson, Rosie Lee (1910-28 FEB 1929)
Jackson, Tameka Michelle (03 JAN 1976-07 JAN 1976)
James, Lula Lee, Mrs. (24 DEC 1885-19 ___ 1931)
Jennings, Ozell (06 AUG 1919-27 MAR 1960)
Johnson, James E. (21 APR 1972-22 APR 1972)
Johnson, John Henry (1928-21 FEB 1929)
Johnson, McKinley (06 JUN 1927-23 FEB 1983)
Johnson, Roosevelt (10 JAN 1903-12 APR 1947)
Jones, Anderson J. (13 MAY 1873-25 JUL 1958)
Jones, Paul B. (12 AUG 1920-25 OCT 1971)
Jones, Willie (14 MAY 1931-01 MAR 1947)
King, Alphonza, Elder (27 DEC 1878-23 JUN 1960)
King, Charlès (14 JUL 1920-07 AUG 1942)
Kelly, Charles, Jr. (24 AUG 1927- JUN 1980)
King, Earvin, Jr. (05 JAN 1945-24 JAN 1945)
King, George (d. 11 JUN 1922, age 40)
King, Josephine (30 NOV 1924-16 MAY 1945)
King, Leroy (08 MAR 1923-17 MAR 1947)
Lawson, Hollie, Mrs. (15 SEP 1902-24 APR 1948)
Lawson, L. J. (02 DEC 1932-18 DEC 1978)
Leanard, Julia (14 APR 1900-17 APR 1955)
Leonard, Mattie B. (09 OCT 1899-17 NOV 1958)
Lindsey, Virgel (15 JUN 1904-10 MAR 1963)
Livas, James A., Sr. (d. 16 SEP 1959, age 66)
Livas, Louise O. (1866-06 MAR 1942)
Longino, Dion Demietrise (31 JAN 1969-31 JAN 1971)
Maddox, Ed (15 FEB 1881-11 FEB 1944)
Maddox, John L. (17 OCT 1902-07 DEC 1978)
Maddox, Minnie L. (08 MAR 1879-19 DEC 1946)
Manual, Marie (11 FEB 1918-04 APR 1919)
Marshall, Willie (19 MAR 1911-22 JUL 1951)
Mason, Julie Hobbs (1896-10 MAR 1923)
Mays, Daniel (20 MAR 1919-12 APR 1919)
McAfee, L. D., Rev. (d. 02 NOV 1951)
McAfee, Sarah J. (d. 01 SEP 1956, age 78)
McBride, Catherine L. (21 JUL 1933-12 JUL 1941)
McBride, Leonard (22 MAY 1933-13 OCT 1977)
McBride, Lindy (1882-12 SEP 1944)
McBride, Susie (11 JAN 1907-05 MAR 1949)
McCall, Florence Scott (d. 27 FEB 1947, age 54)
McClaskey, Clara (d. 1919)
McCluster, Idell (1914-28 JUN 1979)
McGlom, Jose (1848-05 DEC 1918)
McKee, Mattie Maude (21 AUG 1926-13 MAR 1965)
Minningham, William (12 AUG 1919-18 AUG 1919)
Mitchell, Mattie E. (15 JUL 1902-03 FEB 1981)
Moore, Addie (AUG 1881-18 AUG 1919)
Moore, James (10 MAR 1___-10 FEB 1943)
Morton, Yank (10 APR 1900-30 AUG 1968)
Moses, Olivia, Mrs. (20 SEP 1888-17 OCT 1970)
Moses, Willis (17 MAR 1924-17 MAR 1924)
Moses, Son (d. 25 AUG 1941, age 45)
Nathan, James L. (09 MAY 1898-18 JAN 1949)
O'Neal, Susie (25 DEC 1898-25 DEC 1979)
Obelton, Eric (10 DEC 1961-30 DEC 1961)
Palmer, D. C. "Dock"? (07 JAN 1859-08 FEB 1945)
Palmer, Ethel Mae (1929-21 JAN 1930)
Palmer, Nathan (18 JUL 1908-JUN 1943)
Parkman, Bessie (08 JUN 1898-18 NOV 1946)
Parkman, Lila Scott (d. 07 MAR 1929)
Parkman, Maude (1908-1945)
Parkman, Zack (03 DEC 1876-21 AUG 1939)
Parkmon, baby (d. 31 MAY 1939)
Parks, Coley (17 JUN 1979-13 DEC 1979)
Parks, Lillian (07 FEB 1928-MAR 1963)
Pearce, infant dau. of Lucis (d. 22 JAN 1919)
Peterson, Bessie (18 JUN 1863-23 MAR 1922)
Peterson, Emily (27 NOV 1887-18 SEP 1959)
Peterson, Essix (1883-1943)
Pleas, Ed (d. 20 OCT 1943, age 43)
Pleas, Mossie Phene (d. 07 NOV 1948, age 52)
Porch, Pleas, Jr. (no dates)
Porch, Richard (25 OCT 1921-13 NOV 1921)
Porter, Phil, Jr. (18 FEB 1937-07 DEC 1982)
Pow, Enoch (14 OCT 1886-06 JAN 1945)
Preston, Eddie (15 AUG 1908-12 MAR 1979)
Quarles, Calvin (05 MAY 1908-11 JAN 1980)
Rambo, Ulysses (1923-08 OCT 1986)
Reese, John (12 OCT 1880-15 JUN 1933)
Reeves, Randolph T. (20 SEP 1928-JAN 1987)
Robinson, Drain W. (d. 22 FEB 1943, age 50) Robinson, George (28 AUG 1940-15 DEC 1945)
Sams, Roosevelt (17 OCT 1918-11 JAN 1983)
Shaw, Bertha Mae (11 SEP 1912-08 OCT 1987)
Shaw, Ola F. (17 OCT 1892-11 JUL 1974)
Short, Fannie (no dates)
Smith, Dollie (18 NOV 1876-24 MAY 1915)
Smith, Sallie (1834-1924)
Smith, Walter P. (1914-1982)
Snell (first name illegible, 18 JAN 1983-24 DEC 1997)
Snell, Curtis (19 SEP 1923-21 APR 1928)
Snell, Della (30 APR 1876-18 SEP 1945)
Snell, Eddie (21 FEB 1875-28 OCT 1949)
Spellers, Henry (1878-13 APR 1919)
Spencer, Mattie (09 APR 1879-03 FEB 1929)
Spencer, Mosell (16 FEB1909-02 SEP 1929)
Spencer, Thomas (27 JUL 1905-28 NOV 1943)
Stephens, Hiram (18 OCT 1920-06 JUN 1959)
Stevens, Willie (10 JAN 1908-24 JUN 1944)
Steward, Will (03 MAY 1883-03 JUN 1945)
Stinson, inf. s/o Eugene and May (b. & d. 20 NOV 1919)
Sullivan, John L. (25 OCT 1914-12 SEP 1980)
Surls, James T. (10 JUL 1928-06 FEB 1986)
Tarver, Tommy (09 OCT 1919-14 APR 1983)
Taylor, William (1895-30 NOV 1919)
Teasley, Theresa (d. 17 NOV 1937)
Terry, Jessie, Jr. (10 MAY 1915-07 JUL 1979)
Thomas, Annie B. (1913-09 JAN 1930)
Thomas, Clifford (03 APR 1905-21 MAY 1940)
Thomas, Jake (03 FEB 1886-30 JAN 1929)
Thomas, Jerrie (17 MAR 1919-16 MAR 1944)

Thomas, Kidd (12 FEB 1918-21 FEB 1980)
Thomas, Lena W., Mrs. (15 MAY 1885-01 AUG 1950)
Thomas, Robert (16 JUL 1895-21 MAR 1959)
Tigner, Georgia K., Mrs. (20 MAY 1881-22 NOV 1949)
Tolbert, Eddie Walter (19 JUL 1922-14 APR 1954)
Toney, Charlie M. (22 NOV 1924-02 SEP 1981)
Tramble, Charlie (19 APR 1918-04 NOV 1959)
Tramble, Ella (d. 02 SEP 1945)
Tramble, Harry (16 APR 1876-12 FEB 1938)
Tramble, Jencie, Mrs. (11 AUG 1899-19 MAY 1960)
Trice, Jessie (16 MAY 1898-23 DEC 1958)
Tucker, Willie (02 JUN 1907-31 MAY 1978)
Tucker, Willie (14 JUL 1970-31 OCT 1971)
Walker, Wilbert Lee (28 NOV 1931- 29 AUG 1980)
Walton, James (1866-28 OCT 1941)
Walton, Julia, Mrs. (07 MAR 1886-06 MAY 1948)
Warren, Mark C. (07 OCT 1961-18 JAN 1962)
Watkins, Oliver (26 MAY 1945-08 JUN 1946)
Watson, Laura (26 JUN 1898-24 AUG 1898)
Weaver, Larry (23 OCT 1956-04 MAR 1978)
Wells, Ora (10 AUG 1906-14 MAR 1978)
West, Henry, Rev. (05 JUL 1895-29 DEC 1981)
White, Henry (19 MAR 1____-15 AUG 1938)
White, Mose (d. 30 NOV 1918)
Whittlesey, inf. of Hyram & Emmer (06 AUG 1919-13 AUG 1919)
Wiggins, Fred L. (09 AUG 1924-30 APR 1962)
Wiggins, James (20 MAR 1946-04 JUL 1962)
William, Julia C. (18 FEB 1891-01 DEC 1987)
William, Oscar (22 FEB 1918-12 APR 1988)
William, Robert (d. 27 NOV 1943, age 45)
Williams, Archie L. (06 JAN 1905-12 JUN 1979)
Williams, Austin (03 MAR 1913-11 JAN 1982)
Williams, Ida B. (b. 1900)
Williams, John (14 JUL 1890-18 OCT 1946)
Williams, Leila Huff (18 MAY 1881-20 SEP 1950)
Williams, Lettie (d. 14 JAN 1938, age about 83)
Williams, Proffessor Tobby (29 FEB 1932-31 MAY 1948)
Williams, Rosie (15 MAR 1919-31 JUL 1919)
Willis, Benjamin (15 MAY 1918-16 JAN 1921)
Willis, Bennie (28 FEB 1920-29 FEB 1920)
Willis, Blanchard (17 MAR 1925-21 FEB 1981)
Willis, Lonzier L. (10 FEB 1916-10 JUN 1962)
Willis, Olla (d. 11 MAR 1978)
Wilson, Clifford (14 MAR 1937-13 AUG 1980)
Wilson, Eula P. (d. 19 AUG 1959, age 43)
Wright, Alfonzo (07 APR 1909-10 OCT 1936)
Wright, Robert James (1928-1980)
Wynnton, Joe (10 APR 1917-29 DEC 1918)
Young, Leroy (19 NOV 1916-20 JUL 1969)
Young, Oscar L., Jr. (d. 04 SEP 1938)

Muscogee Alms House Cemetery

The Muscogee County Alms House was a hospital set up at the site of the old Muscogee County Poor Farm, on what is now Schatulga Road, for the treatment of patients with tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. The road that used to be called County Farm Road is now known as Forrest Road, after the physician Forrest L. Cosby, Sr., who presided over the Muscogee County Alms House for many years. That institution evolved into what became Muscogee Manor Rehabilitation Center.

In the 1970s, the state acquired this tract of land, and when excavation was begun for the construction of the chapel on the newly developed campus of the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital (WCGRH), graves were discovered. These were moved to a corner of the hospital tract and laid out in neat rows. Every grave except one is marked only with a plain concrete stob (some of which have since fallen). The exception is the grave of Mrs. Josie Miller, which is marked with an engraved marble head tablet and foot marker. A total of 114 graves are marked. This site was toured and photographed in January 2011 by Linda Farmer Ames and the author.

The campus of WCGRH is secured, so permission must be gained to access the property, and visitors are escorted by staff security personnel. The cemetery may also be accessed via a road leading from Sacerdote Lane to the municipal sanitary landfill, by which road the cemetery is bounded on its east side; it is said that there is a gate on this road that is locked, except during weekday business hours.

It is not known if any of the interments at this site pre-date the establishment of the county hospital there. The following entries (other than that of Josie Miller) have been gleaned from early death certificates, 1919-1930:[135]

Harris, Abe – born at Warrior Stand, Macon County, Alabama, died January 1, 1930, age 73; African-American, formerly employed as a "chair repairman."

Miller, Josephine "Josie," Mrs. - born in Alabama, died October 13, 1933, age 64; White, widowed; both her parents were born in Alabama.

Robinson, L. D. Munro - born in Dothan, Houston County, Alabama, died July 18, 1924, age about 22; White, employed as a barber.

[28] The Georgia Department of Archives and History maintains two databases for Georgia Death Certificates. One is Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927 (http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php). The other is Georgia Non-Indexed Death Certificates, 1928-1930 (http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/nondeath.php). To locate a certificate in the second database, you must first search its index and get the certificate number.

Washington, Eli - died March 31, 1919, age 73; African-American, a widower.

Updates to Previous Cemetery List

The information in this section supplements the previous cemetery list published in "Muscogee County Private, Church, and Community Cemeteries," *Muscogiana* 21, no. 2 (Fall 2010): 29 – 34.

Additional Cemeteries:

Floyd-Snell – located in the Creek Rise residential subdivision, north of Heiferhorn Creek and east of the River Road – two marked graves, at least eight grave depressions.

Garrett Creek Ct. (not the same as the Garrett Rd. site) – located at 8002 Garrett Creek Court, at the back of a residential lot at 8004 Garrett Creek Court; there is an easement off of the cul-de-sac, running between the lots at 8000 and 8004 to the back of the latter, along its rear property line, thence to the cemetery. The parcel ID, according to the Columbus Consolidated Government property map, is 127 004 019 (e.g. map sheet 127, block 4, tract 19).[136] Number of graves not known.

Gentian Blvd. (definitely not the same as the Lindsay Cemetery, which is on the hill to the southwest of this site) – on the south side of Gentian Boulevard, just east of University Avenue, across the street from a house that formerly served as a framing shop; it is understood that the road here could not be widened further because the graves could not be moved, since they have not been identified and family members could not be contacted to give permission for the removal – approximately ten graves, all unmarked.

Liberty Hill Baptist (a.k.a. Bush Arbor) – beside church located at 6408 Forrest Road – at least fifty graves.

Lindsay (a.k.a. Sherwood C. Lindsey) – behind the University Crossing apartment complex at 4240 University Avenue – at least ten graves.

[29] Property Map for 8004 Garrett Creek Court, "Public Access GIS Portal," Columbus Consolidated Government, accessed January 19, 2012, http://columbus-public.binarybus.com/app/default.asp.

McDougall – location not known; the death certificate of Hattie Jackson (died October 19, 1923 in Rural Free Delivery 1, Columbus) reports her burial place as McDougall Cemetery;[137] no further information at this time – number of graves not known.

Mount Olive Baptist (a.k.a. Little Mount Olive, New Mount Olive) – adjacent to the Pace Cemetery on Biggers Road – at least sixty graves.

Muscogee County Alms House – at the northeast corner of the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital campus; this is the site designated "Near municipal dump" on the initial list. Note that there is also a pet cemetery, called Pet Haven, on Sacerdote Lane; the road to the municipal dump spurs off of Sacerdote and runs on the east side of the Muscogee County Alms House Cemetery – 114 graves.

Ogletree – at 5774 Winsloe Avenue; cemetery is a fenced tract behind houses in the 2700 block of North Walnut Street, the 5700-5800 block of Carlton Avenue, and the 2700 block of Vultee Drive – number of graves indeterminate.

Shamrock Glen – at back of residential lot located at 4413 Shamrock Glen; in the same subdivision as the Moon-David Cemetery and reportedly also containing members of these same families – number of graves not known (none marked or clearly evident).

Sperling – location not known; the death certificate of Mansil Ray McBride (died April 5, 1920 at his residence, 1312 Twenty-third Street in Columbus) reports that he was buried in Sperling Cemetery,[138] Muscogee County – however, this may actually be the Sperling / Spurling lot at Providence Freewill Baptist Cemetery. If a separate cemetery, number of graves not known.

Springer Place – location not known; the death certificate of King Kilpatrick (died September, 1924 in Georgia Militia District #1128 / Edwards District, as a resident of Upatoie, GA, Edwards District being Land Lot 9 in Muscogee County) reports his burial location as the Springer Place, Muscogee County.[139] A family member relates from oral history that family members are buried on a farmstead that is now on the Fort Benning military reservation.

[30] Death Certificate for Hattie Jackson, #29847 (1923), *Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927*, accessed January 23, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php.

[31] Death Certificate for Mansil Ray McBride, #12924 (1920), *Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927*, accessed January 23, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php.

[32] Death Certificate for King Kilpartick, #28200 (1924), *Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927*, accessed January 23, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php.

St. James Baptist – located at 319 Northstar Drive – at least seventy-four graves.

Torch Hill – location not known; the death certificate of Edenborough Smith (died May 24, 1923) reports his burial location as Torch Hill, Muscogee County.[140] Torch Hill was the home of Dr. Francis Orray Ticknor (1822 – 1874) and family, and present-day Torch Hill Road, off of Victory Drive, probably led to this place. Number of graves not known.

Whitesville Rd. – 10450 Whitesville Rd.; on a hill, bounded on the west by the road and on the three remaining sides by the lot at 10420 Whitesville. The parcel ID, according to the Columbus Consolidated Government property map, is 176 003 004 (e.g. map sheet 176, block 3, tract 4).[141] This tract is part of land lot 204 in Land District 19. Note that Earnest Carter (stillborn May 14, 1920 in Rural Free Delivery #1, Columbus, Georgia) was buried "near Whitesville Road" by private undertaking conducted by relatives;[142] it is not known if this burial is related to the cemetery at 10450 Whitesville. Number of graves not known.

Changes to previous entries:

Garrett Rd. – The cemetery lot is located at 9401 Midland Woods Drive, on the northeast corner of the intersection of Garrett Road and Midland Woods Drive. The parcel ID, according to the Columbus Consolidated Government property map, is 127 015 024 (e.g. map sheet 127, block 15, tract 24).[143] This tract includes parts of land lots 8, 25, and 26 in Land District 16. Number of graves not known.

Lynch-Beard-Garrett – this entry should be stricken from the list. Actually Lynch-Heard-Garrett, it is simply one family lot at the Old Russell-Whitley Cemetery.

Lynch-Duncan – this cemetery is now adjacent to the Quail Ridge apartment complex, at 5300 Woodruff Farm Rd., and contains at least seven graves.

Mobley Rd. – apparently the same as a cemetery tract bounded by residential lots on Kylemore Court, Lismore Court, and the 900 block of Lismore Drive; access is via an easement between the lots at 4

[33] Death Certificate for Edenborough Smith, #15108 (1923), *Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927*, accessed January 23, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php.

[34] Property Map for 10450 Whitesville Road, "Public Access GIS Portal," Columbus Consolidated Government, accessed January 19, 2012, http://columbus-public.binarybus.com/app/default.asp.

[35] Death Certificate for Earnest Carter, #15625 (1920), *Georgia Death Certificates, 1919-1927*, accessed January 23, 2012, http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php.

[36] Property Map for 9401 Midland Woods Drive, "Public Access GIS Portal," Columbus Consolidated Government, accessed January 19, 2012, http://columbus-public.binarybus.com/app/default.asp.

Kylemore Ct. and 6 Kylemore Ct. The parcel ID, according to the Columbus Consolidated Government property map, is 181 026 008 (e.g. map sheet 181, block 26, tract 8).[144] Number of graves not known.



Mt. Olive Cemetery photographed by Linda Farmer Ames

[37] Property Map for 4 Kylemore Court, "Public Access GIS Portal," Columbus Consolidated Government, accessed January 19, 2012, http://columbus-public.binarybus.com/app/default.asp.

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